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H M Queen Victoria
1899

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EDITED BY GEORGE EARLE BUCKLE
EDITOR OF THE SECOND SERIES

IN THREE VOLUMES

VOL. III

1896-1901

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PREFACE

THIS volume brings *The Letters of Queen Victoria* to a close. The enterprise which King Edward started and King George has carried through is now complete. In nine substantial volumes—three series of three volumes each—there lies open for the public and posterity a continuous presentation of the great Queen, in her correspondence and journal, from even before her accession in June 1837 down to her death in January 1901. Here, extracted from the Windsor Archives, are materials of absolute authenticity and trustworthiness for the reign and the personality of the most beloved, and one of the most renowned, of the long line of English monarchs.

In one respect the two latter series, covering the years 1862–1901, for which the present Editor is responsible, are more informative about her Majesty's character and capacity than the first series. During the Prince Consort's life, the absolute confidence which the Queen before long came to repose in her husband's judgment makes it often difficult to distinguish her action and sentiments from his. After his death, though no widow ever endeavoured more faithfully to carry out unaltered the policy and views of the departed, a gradual emancipation from

his influence was inevitable. No other single influence took its place. After her Majesty's children had grown to manhood and womanhood, she took counsel with several of them, now and again, mainly on special subjects; towards the close of her reign, more and more with the Prince of Wales. She placed considerable reliance on her successive Private Secretaries, General Grey, Sir Henry Ponsonby, and Sir Arthur Bigge—especially on Sir Henry Ponsonby, who held the post for a quarter of a century. Among her Ministers there were two in whom she had great confidence, one after the other, Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury. But she had serious differences with both; and with both, on occasion after occasion, she ultimately carried her point. Thus no Prince or Princess, no Secretary or Minister, became a dominating influence. While, in contemplating her married life, we may wonder whether it is not the Prince Consort (rather than the Queen herself) who is speaking through the Queen's mouth or writing by the Queen's pen, we feel, when we come to the latter half of the reign, that we are hearing or reading her Majesty's authentic utterance. The habits and the way of life persisted, and the memories of the past were carefully cherished, but the independence of thought and the individuality of character are unmistakable. These qualities shone out conspicuously in the Queen's action and correspondence during the Boer War in her last year of life; indeed, such were her force of character and devotion to duty that, in face of increasing physical weakness, she carried on her constitutional functions to within a few days of the end.

The Editor may perhaps be allowed to repeat here, and adopt as his own, the appropriate words with which in 1907 his predecessors, Dr. Arthur Benson

and the 2nd Lord Esher, concluded their original preface to *The Letters of Queen Victoria* :

It is a deeply inspiring spectacle to see one surrounded by every temptation which worldly greatness can present, living from day to day so simple, vivid, and laborious a life ; and it is impossible to conceive a more fruitful example of duty and affection and energy, displayed on so august a scale, and in the midst of such magnificent surroundings. We would venture to believe that nothing could so deepen the personal devotion of the Empire to the memory of that great Queen who ruled it so wisely and so long, and its deeply-rooted attachment to the principle of constitutional monarchy, as the gracious act of his Majesty the King in allowing the inner side of that noble life and career to be more clearly revealed to a nation whose devotion to their ancient liberties is inseparably connected with their loyalty to the Throne.

EDITORIAL NOTE

THE genealogical table of Queen Victoria's descendants, which was appended to the third volume of the *Original Series*, has been brought up to date and reproduced at the end of this volume. To meet the convenience of readers, it gives the pet names in use in the Royal Family—names which so frequently recur in her Majesty's journal and letters.

The Editor's obligations to those who have given him friendly and valuable help in preparing the *Third Series* for the press have already been acknowledged in detail in the previous volumes. He can only reiterate, on this final occasion, his warm gratitude to all : to the King's Private Secretary, to the guardians of the Windsor Archives, and to the Publishers.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE TO CHAPTER XII

DURING the year 1896 Queen Victoria entered on the last stage of her great career. On 28rd September she had reigned longer than any of her predecessors, and there was some disposition to make the day one of national celebration. But her Majesty let it be known that in her view public rejoicings ought to be deferred till 20th June 1897, when the sixtieth year of her reign should be completed. In other respects 1896 was for the Queen a year of mourning. Her son-in-law, Prince Henry of Battenberg, to whom since his marriage to Princess Beatrice and constant residence under her Majesty's roof she had become deeply attached, died of fever on board ship on 20th January, having been invalided from the Ashanti Expedition.

With the opening of the year the storm broke in South Africa. News came that Dr. Jameson, the Administrator of the British South Africa Company's territory, had crossed on 29th December the frontier into the Transvaal, at the head of 400 or 500 troopers, in order to assist the Uitlanders to obtain by force the civil rights denied them by President Kruger. Mr. Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary, had immediately telegraphed to Sir Hercules Robinson, the High Commissioner for South Africa, repudiating the raid, and directing that it should be stopped. But Dr. Jameson went on till, on New Year's Day, he met a Boer force near Krugersdorp; and after a fight of several hours he and his troopers were defeated and surrendered. Sir Hercules Robinson at once proceeded to Pretoria. On his representations the Johannesburg Reformers, who were not ready for action when Dr. Jameson moved, laid down the arms which they had since hurriedly taken up; and President Kruger gave up his prisoners—the raiders—to be put on trial by the British Government. But he ordered the arrest of the Uitlander leaders on a charge of high treason. Mr. Chamberlain endeavoured without success to get him to come to England and make a reasonable settlement.

Mr. Rhodes, Prime Minister at the Cape, and Dr. Jameson's chief as Managing Director of the Chartered Company, resigned his Premiership, came to London, and placed his resignation as Managing Director in the Board's hands. He then went immediately to Matabeleland, and, largely by his personal influence, succeeded after some months in crushing

a serious native rebellion there. After trial at Pretoria, the four chief Reform leaders, one of whom (Col. Frank Rhodes) was Mr. Rhodes's brother, were condemned to death—a sentence which, after a strong protest from Mr. Chamberlain, was commuted to fifteen years' imprisonment (afterwards much reduced) and a fine of £25,000 apiece. Fifty-nine other Reformers were tried and fined £2,000 each. The trial of Dr. Jameson and his principal fellow-raiders in London resulted in July in a verdict of *Guilty*, but with a rider that the state of things in Johannesburg presented great provocation. Dr. Jameson was sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment, but was released at the end of the year on grounds of health. His five principal military officers were sentenced to lesser terms, and (with Col. Rhodes) were directed to resign their commissions in the Army. A Select Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to enquire into the raid, but the taking of evidence was postponed till the next session. Meanwhile, President Kruger hardened his heart, used the money obtained by the Reform Leaders' fines to increase his armaments, and continued and accentuated the system by which the Uitlanders contributed more than three-quarters of the Transvaal revenue without having any voice in its expenditure.

There was from the first much personal sympathy in Great Britain and in the Empire for Dr. Jameson and the raiders. This movement of public feeling was strengthened by a telegram which the German Emperor, after consulting his Ministers, sent immediately after the raid, congratulating Mr. Kruger in terms virtually recognising his independence, and which he followed up by orders to land marines from a German cruiser in Delagoa Bay to proceed to Pretoria—a measure frustrated by Portuguese refusal to acquiesce. As control over the foreign relations of the Transvaal was secured to Britain by the Convention of London, and as both Government and people were determined to maintain it, the Emperor's action caused an outburst of angry indignation. In view of the anxious situation alike in South Africa, in Anglo-German relations, and in Anglo-American relations over Venezuela, a Flying Squadron was mobilised, and preparations were made for sending more troops to South Africa. But, before long, the tension was relaxed. It was found unnecessary to despatch the troops; the German Emperor protested that he had been misunderstood—a protest formally accepted by the Government, but altogether

distrusted by British opinion; and the Anglo-American dispute became a matter of friendly negotiation, which was concluded within the year by a reference, under certain conditions, of the Venezuelan boundary question to arbitration.

Lord Salisbury realised in March that an opportunity had come to begin that movement for regaining the Soudan for civilisation, to which so many of his countrymen were looking forward, and which the regenerating work in Egypt of Lord Cromer, the British Agent-General, and of Sir Herbert Kitchener, the Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, had by now rendered possible. An Italian expeditionary force in Abyssinia had been defeated by the Negus at Adowa on 1st March, and their hold on Kassala was threatened by the dervishes, who were in a ferment throughout the northern Soudan. Partly as a diversion to help the Italians, the Sirdar was ordered to advance up the Nile from Wady Halfa, but not to go farther than Dongola. Though violent attacks were made on this policy of advance in Parliament by the Liberals under Sir William Harcourt and Mr. Morley, Ministers were sustained by large majorities, 268 to 126, and 288 to 145. The expedition, mainly formed of Egyptian troops, was completely successful. On the morning of 7th June, at Firket, the dervishes were surprised in camp and routed with heavy loss; and in the autumn, after a sharp conflict at Hafir, Dongola was occupied on 23rd September. In West Africa the aims of the Ashanti Expedition were accomplished without any fighting; King Prempeh was deposed and deported. In Canada a General Election placed the Liberals in power, with Mr. Wilfrid Laurier as Premier. He was a French Canadian, but a strong Imperialist, a main branch of whose policy was the adoption of preferential tariff arrangements with Great Britain and sister colonies. In Australia, in spite of the death of Sir Henry Parkes, the idea of Federation made distinct progress, and all the Colonies, except Queensland, resolved to meet in a Federal conference in 1897.

The Russian Emperor and Empress were crowned with imposing ceremony at Moscow on 26th May; but the festivities were marred by a terrible disaster, on the 31st, in which, owing to defective police arrangements for regulating the enormous crowds, 3,000 people were suffocated or trampled to death in a crush. In the autumn the Imperial pair made a tour in Europe, accompanied by the Foreign Minister, Prince Lobanoff, who died suddenly on 30th August. They

visited the Emperor Francis Joseph in Vienna at the end of August; spent a fortnight, from 22nd September to 3rd October, with Queen Victoria at Balmoral, where the Emperor saw Lord Salisbury; and then paid a demonstrative visit of five days, 5th to 9th October, to France, being received with great enthusiasm and ceremony in Paris.

The peace of the world was threatened by the failure of Spain to subdue an insurrection in Cuba. Marshal Campos was superseded by General Weyler without any greater success. The attitude of the United States, where there was much sympathy for the Cuban rebels, was menacing; and the Senate passed a resolution, disregarded by the Executive, acknowledging the independence of Cuba. Attention in America was largely occupied by the Presidential Election, in which Mr. McKinley, Republican, defeated Mr. Bryan, a Democrat in favour of the free coinage of silver. The state of Turkey as well as Cuba remained a menace to the world. Though Lord Salisbury had restored the concert of Europe, he could not get it to work efficiently. An attempt was made to end the unrest in Crete by appointing a Christian Governor. The massacres of Armenians in different parts of the Turkish Empire continued, and culminated in a peculiarly atrocious holocaust in Constantinople in August. The Powers protested, without result; and Lord Salisbury could not induce them to do more than protest. Indignation rose to a high pitch in England, and a large part of the Liberal Party, stimulated by Mr. Gladstone, advocated independent action to depose the Sultan. Lord Rosebery combated this movement, but without much success in his own party; and accordingly, by a letter to the Whip on 6th October, he resigned his leadership.

The first session of the new Ministry was not a wholly successful one, as its principal measure, a comprehensive Education Bill, though welcomed on its second reading by the unprecedented majority of 267, proved so unwieldy and so unacceptable to the Nonconformists and to many Churchmen that it had to be withdrawn in the middle of June, after only two lines of the first clause had been passed in Committee. Mr. Balfour, however, succeeded in carrying a sessional order by which supply was limited to twenty days—an arrangement still in force. The House of Commons sanctioned further large increases in Naval Expenditure. Important bills were also passed to relieve agricultural land of half its rates, and to facilitate land purchase in Ireland.

CHAPTER XII

1896

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

COLONIAL OFFICE, 1st Jan. 1896.—Mr. Chamberlain presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and begs to submit copies of the telegrams which have passed with regard to affairs in the Transvaal.

Doctor Jameson's invasion¹ of a country with which your Majesty is at peace appears to have had no justification. His action has been disavowed by Mr. Rhodes and by the Chartered Company. Mr. Chamberlain hopes that the action taken by Sir Hercules Robinson² and himself will prevent bloodshed and avert further mischief.

[*Télégramme.*] *Queen Victoria to the Sultan of Turkey.*

2 Jan. 1896.—Je remercie sincèrement votre Majesté Impériale des bons vœux qu'elle m'adresse pour le nouvel an. Dieu veuille que les nuages qui l'obscurcissent se dissipent et que votre Majesté ait la satisfaction de voir cesser les souffrances de vos peuples ! VICTORIA R. I.

[*Telegram.*] *Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.*

PARLIAMENT STREET, 2nd Jan. 1896.—Mr. Chamberlain . . . regrets to have to inform your Majesty that Dr. Jameson refused to obey the commands of Sir H. Robinson and to retire. An engagement there-

¹ See Introductory Note to this chapter.

² The High Commissioner for South Africa and Governor of Cape Colony.

upon took place with the troops of the Transvaal, and Dr. Jameson had to surrender after losing men killed and wounded. Sir H. Robinson is now on his way to Pretoria with instructions to secure best terms for the prisoners and to assist in a settlement.

Lord Salisbury's Third Ministry

(Formed in June 1895)

<i>Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary</i>	MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.
<i>First Lord of the Treasury</i>	ARTHUR JAMES (afterwards Earl of) BALFOUR.
<i>Lord Chancellor</i>	LORD (afterwards Earl of) HALSBURY.
<i>Lord President of the Council</i>	DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE (formerly Marquis of Hartington).
<i>Lord Privy Seal</i>	VISCOUNT CROSS.
<i>Home Secretary</i>	SIR MATTHEW WHITE (afterwards Viscount) RIDLEY.
<i>Colonial Secretary</i>	JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN.
<i>War Secretary</i>	MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE.
<i>Indian Secretary</i>	LORD GEORGE HAMILTON.
<i>Chancellor of the Exchequer</i>	SIR MICHAEL HICKS BEACH (afterwards Earl St. Aldwyn).
<i>First Lord of the Admiralty</i>	GEORGE J. (afterwards Viscount) GOSCHEN.
<i>Lord Lieutenant of Ireland</i>	EARL CADOGAN.
<i>Lord Chancellor of Ireland</i>	LORD ANSBORNE.
<i>President of the Board of Trade</i>	CHARLES T. (afterwards Lord) RITCHIE.
<i>President of the Local Government Board</i>	HENRY (afterwards Viscount) CHAPLIN.
<i>President of the Board of Agriculture</i>	WALTER H. (afterwards Viscount) LONG.
<i>Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster</i>	LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD (formerly Sir Henry James).
<i>Secretary for Scotland</i>	LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH.
<i>First Commissioner of Works</i>	ARETAS AKERS-DOUGLAS (afterwards Viscount Chilston).

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 2nd Jan. 1896.—Beatrice read me telegrams after tea, as my sight is so bad, and I have not yet succeeded in getting spectacles to suit. No fresh news from the Transvaal. But this affair is very unfortunate.

There are every day satisfactory accounts in the papers from the Gold Coast. The native Chiefs,

especially one is mentioned, were greatly excited and surprised when Sir F. Scott introduced Liko,¹ "who had married the Queen's daughter," to them. The papers also say that Liko has been made Military Secretary to the General.

3rd Jan.—More telegrams kept coming in, and one from President Kruger to Mr. Chamberlain apparently referring to those in the Raid who had been taken prisoners, saying they were to be treated with kindness.

The papers are full of very strong articles against William, who sent a most unwarranted telegram to President Kruger, congratulating him, which is outrageous, and very unfriendly towards us. The following is the telegram: "I sincerely congratulate you that you and your people have succeeded, by your own energetic action and without appealing for help to friendly Powers, in restoring order against the armed bands that broke into your country as disturbers of the peace, and in safeguarding the independence of the country from attacks from without." After tea Beatrice dictated to me from a rough draft of mine a letter to William,² in answer to one I received from him a few days ago.

Sir Francis Knollys³ to Sir Arthur Bigge.⁴

SANDRINGHAM, 4th January 1896.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—The Prince of Wales desires me to write to you and say that he feels sure the Queen looks upon the German Emperor's message to President Kruger as a most gratuitous act of unfriendliness. H.R.H. also thinks that, considering the Emperor's relationship with her Majesty, the professions which he has always made as to his love for this country,

¹ Prince Henry of Battenberg, Princess Beatrice's husband, who had joined the Ashanti Expeditionary Force, commanded by Sir F. Scott.

² See next page.

³ Private Secretary to the Prince of Wales and to King Edward throughout his reign; created Viscount Knollys.

⁴ Private Secretary to the Queen 1895-1901, and to King George 1910-1931; created Lord Stamfordham.

and the appointments which he holds both in the English Army and Navy, he has shown in addition the worst possible good taste and good feeling in congratulating the Boers on their victory over a body of men (accomplished it is feared with a considerable loss of life to the vanquished) composed exclusively of the Queen's subjects. But independently of all this, the Prince of Wales would like to know what business the Emperor had to send any message at all. The South African Republic is not an independent State in the proper sense of the word, and it is under the Queen's suzerainty. What the Emperor has done therefore is doubly unnecessary and unfriendly. H.R.H. only hopes he will not come to Cowes this year. Yours sincerely, FRANCIS KNOLLYS.

[Telegram.] *The Colonial Office to Sir Arthur Bigge.*

COLONIAL OFFICE, 4th Jan. 1896.—. . . All telegrams were posted to you this evening at seven; Jameson not wounded, but in prison, with White and Willoughby.¹ It is believed that things are becoming quiet and no further disturbance likely. We think Transvaal Government will deal leniently with prisoners. . . .

Queen Victoria to the German Emperor.

[Copy.]

OSBORNE, 5th January 1896.

MY DEAR WILLIAM,—. . . As your Grandmother to whom you have always shown so much affection and of whose example you have always spoken with so much respect, I feel I cannot refrain from expressing my deep regret at the telegram you sent President Kruger. It is considered very unfriendly towards this country, which I feel sure it is not intended to be, and has, I grieve to say, made a very painful impression here. The action of Dr. Jameson was of course very wrong and totally unwarranted; but considering the very peculiar position in which the Transvaal stands towards Great Britain, I think it would have been far

¹ Military officers accompanying Dr. Jameson.

better to have said nothing. Our great wish has always been to keep on the best of terms with Germany, trying to act together, but I fear your Agents in the Colonies do the very reverse, which deeply grieves us. Let me hope that you will try and check this. . . .

I hope you will take my remarks in good part, as they are entirely dictated by my desire for your good.
VICTORIA R. I.¹

Queen Victoria to Mr. Chamberlain.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

5th Jan. 1896.—While thanking you for your letter and telegrams sent by messenger on 1st, I cannot help expressing surprise that the more important details of news from the Transvaal have not been at once forwarded to me by telegraph. Telegrams which arrived here by post this morning were published in last night's papers.

I am deeply grieved at this sad disaster, and am naturally most anxious for the latest news.

I sincerely sympathise with you in this most serious and complicated question which has arisen in your Department of my Government.

[*Telegrams.*] *Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.*

COLONIAL OFFICE, 5th Jan. 1896.—Mr. Chamberlain presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and regrets very much that he has misunderstood your Majesty's wishes in regard to telegrams from South Africa. In future all messages of any importance shall be repeated to your Majesty as soon as they can be put into cypher. At the present time there is no indication of any further disturbance of the peace either at Johannesburg or elsewhere, and President Kruger appears to be acting with great moderation.

6th Jan.—Following telegram received from Sir H. Robinson, 6th January :

" 5 January No. 4. C. J. Rhodes telegraphs to me that he finds the present position of affairs so strained

¹ This letter has already been published in Sir Sidney Lee's *King Edward VII*, vol. i, ch. 38.

that he thinks I should accept his resignation. His colleagues in the Ministry, I understand, are all of the same opinion. Acting on suggestion from Rhodes, I have invited Sir Gordon Sprigg to undertake task of formation of new Ministry."

[*Same day.*—Mr. Chamberlain . . . begs to thank your Majesty for your gracious message.

The situation in South Africa is still very critical, and Mr. Chamberlain is using every possible means to prevent any further raid on the territory of the Transvaal Republic. Mr. Rhodes denies that any is intended, and Sir Hercules Robinson does not anticipate one, but Mr. Chamberlain has heard rumours from private sources which make him extremely anxious. In addition to this, he is trying to dissuade President Kruger from taking any extreme measures which might lead to more bloodshed, and further embitter race animosities in South Africa.

As important telegrams may come in at any hour of the night or day, Mr. Chamberlain feels sure that your Majesty would not wish him to leave his post yet, but as soon as the great pressure is removed he will wait upon your Majesty.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 7th Jan. 1895.—So much to do, and my troublesome eyes make everything much more difficult. Had a letter from Mr. Chamberlain, who is acting firmly and prudently.

Queen Victoria to Mr. Chamberlain.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

7th Jan. 1896.—From your cypher of last night situation in Transvaal seems precarious. I assume Jameson's safety will be insisted upon.

You should not entertain any suggestion for altering terms of 1884 Convention which would adversely affect our position with S[outh] A[frikan] Republic.

I cannot say how shocked I am at the terrible loss of life, and I am struck by the excess of killed over wounded, which is the reverse of the usual proportion.

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

COLONIAL OFFICE, 7th Jan. 1896.—. . . From the message just received (6.30 p.m.) from Sir Hercules Robinson, and which is being cyphered to your Majesty, Mr. Chamberlain is led to believe that the prisoners taken by the Transvaal forces will be handed over to be dealt with by your Majesty's Government.

In this case it is probable that there will be no further disturbance in South Africa, and under these circumstances Mr. Chamberlain hopes that it will not be necessary to make preparations for sending a large force to the Cape, as contemplated in his telegram to Sir Hercules Robinson this morning. The knowledge that this step was under consideration may have influenced President Kruger's action, and the situation is now certainly more favourable.

Mr. Chamberlain has informed President Kruger that your Majesty's Government will uphold all the articles of the Convention of 1884.

[Telegrams.]

WHITEHALL, 8th Jan. 1896.—Mr. Chamberlain has great pleasure in informing your Majesty that the prisoners are to be handed over to Sir Hercules Robinson, and that the crisis in South Africa is now over. . . .

[Same day.]—May I express to President Kruger your Majesty's satisfaction that he has handed prisoners over ?¹

[Same day.]—Mr. Chamberlain . . . has instructed Sir Hercules Robinson to convey to President Kruger the expression of your Majesty's satisfaction in terms which Mr. Chamberlain thinks may indicate the position of your Majesty in regard to the Transvaal Republic.²

¹ The Queen approved this suggestion.

² The Queen's message to Mr. Kruger, as transmitted by Mr. Chamberlain, concluded: "This act [the handing over of the prisoners] will redound to the credit of your Honour, and will conduce to the peace of South Africa, and to that harmonious co-operation of the British and Dutch races which is necessary for its future development and prosperity."

Mr. Chamberlain has expressed cordial appreciation of Sir Hercules Robinson's action, pending a fuller or more formal recognition of the services rendered by him which Mr. Chamberlain proposes to make at the close of the negotiations.

Mr. Chamberlain has been aware for some time of rumours that there would be an insurrection in the Transvaal, and it was last reported that the rising would take place at Christmas. But it appears that the Uitlanders were divided in opinion among themselves, and, instead of making a Revolution, they only passed a Resolution, which embodied their grievances. Mr. Chamberlain supposed that this would result in a peaceable settlement, which would no doubt have been arrived at but for Dr. Jameson's impulsive action. Although this will delay the change, it seems probable that the large immigration of Englishmen into the Transvaal will continue, and in this case British influence must in the long run predominate.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

8th Jan. 1896.—While thoroughly appreciating and approving Mr. Chamberlain's prompt and firm action, I think that I should be consulted in such very important questions as sending troops to the Cape or mobilising a Flying Squadron, even though time may press.

Have been daily expecting to hear from you and to learn your views on the general situation.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

8th Jan. 1896.—I was as much surprised as your Majesty to see in *The Times* the account of the intention to send a flying squadron and troops to the Cape. I first heard the project yesterday, but I did not understand it to be mature. Your Majesty certainly ought to have been consulted before the newspapers were allowed to know what was proposed. But their

emissaries swarm all over the public offices, and it is very difficult to keep things from them.

It is proposed to send down three ships, now at Zanzibar, to Delagoa Bay in order to give moral support and, if necessary, material support to the Portuguese, who have behaved very well in refusing to allow a passage for German sailors to the Transvaal.

News to-day that Jameson and the prisoners are to be given up to Sir H. Robinson relieves us of our most serious apprehension. Matters appear to be more smooth in Africa. They are still very bad in Germany.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.
[*Cypher Telegram.*]

OSBORNE, 8th Jan. 1896.—Thanks. Feel for your work and anxiety. Though I share the great indignation of the people against Germany, do, I entreat you, do all you can to pour oil [? water] on the flames, and, above all, urge the police to watch and prevent ill-usage of innocent and good German residents. Could you not direct Sir F. Lascelles¹ to speak to the Emperor and to urge some sort of conciliatory language being used? Could you not hint to our respectable papers not to write violent articles to excite the people? These newspaper wars often tend to provoke war, which would be too awful.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.
[*Cypher Telegram.*]

9th Jan. 1896.—. . . I will do my best to attend to your Majesty's commands whenever I have an opportunity. I had strongly discouraged any language or action against the German residents in your Majesty's Dominions, or against Germany or the German Emperor.

The more irresponsible newspapers in both countries do infinite harm. German Ambassador's language throughout has been quite conciliatory. He

¹ British Ambassador in Berlin.

professes the utmost desire to respect your Majesty's rights in regard to the Transvaal, though he will not admit that the Treaties now in force confer the title of Suzerain.

The political sky looks a little calmer in all directions. The Sultan is slightly more reasonable, and there are signs that the United States are wishing to recede from their extreme position.¹

Viscount Wolseley² to Queen Victoria.

9th January 1896.

MADAM,—I venture to lay before your Majesty with my humble duty the following ideas upon the recent attack upon the Transvaal by a force under Dr. Jameson.

I am convinced the attack had long been contemplated by a body of men who took their inspiration from Mr. C. Rhodes, the late Prime Minister of the Cape Colony. The attempt nearly succeeded; indeed, had the English people in Johannesburg sallied out to meet Dr. Jameson's party, the Boers would have been beaten. Dr. Jameson's party took only four days' provisions with it, and had to get over one hundred and sixty miles of country. I am consequently astonished that they fought so well. They had a number of excellent officers with them, most of whom are known to me. I hope it may be able to save them, for they would be a loss to your Majesty's army. Sooner or later the Transvaal must be an English province, but it will be, I fear, a Republic. Had Dr. Jameson succeeded it would, I believe, have come back to your Majesty's Empire. . . .

The key of the position is Delagoa Bay, where the Germans threatened to land some marines to help the Boers. A railway runs from that place—Lorenzo Marquès is the name of the town there—to Pretoria, so that now the Transvaal Boers, by an arrangement with Portugal, can obtain arms and whatever they

¹ In regard, of course, to the Venezuela question. See Introductory Note.

² He was at this time Commander-in-Chief

require without bringing it through British territory. Formerly, all they required from abroad went through Natal, and had to pay our Colonial duties. If we had Lorenzo Marques, we should be masters of the position ; but, as it is, the only good harbour on the east coast of Africa is in the hands of a weak Power, unable to protect its outlying ports from being made use of by any strong nation that would not scruple to use force in pursuit of its aims. . . . I sincerely hope we may not now be induced to interfere with the Chartered Company. Personally, I have not the remotest interest in that Company, but I feel that it can do great things for England, and do them far better than any Home Government could. Our Indian Empire was built up by a company, and I believe a company in South Africa could, in a somewhat similar fashion, build up for us a strong position there.

I deplore beyond measure everything that has taken place in the Transvaal during the last fortnight ; but I have great confidence in Mr. Chamberlain's patriotism and statesmanlike foresight to save your Majesty's Empire from harm in South Africa and to maintain British influence and prestige there. In my opinion, we should always keep in South Africa more troops than we have done in recent years. It is a very central place from which garrisons could, in the event of war, be at once despatched to St. Helena and the Mauritius. . . . Cape Town itself is, I think, the most important point in a naval point of view of all your Majesty's possessions in the Eastern hemisphere.

Everything goes well with the Ashanti force. . . . I find that the newspapers receive earlier and better news than we do. But anything special that may come to the War Office will be at once telegraphed to your Majesty. I had a good account of the voyage to the Gold Coast, and of how much Prince Henry had done to make all around him happy. He was a universal favourite, and had entered keenly into all the shipboard amusements of his comrades. He had at first sprained his ankle slightly, but had recovered

from the effects before he landed. According to my calculations, the whole of Sir F. Scott's force should to-day, the 10th January, have concentrated at or near Bekwai. That is near Amoafu, where I had my biggest fight in 1874. On Sunday or Monday at latest they ought to be in Coomassie. . . . I have the honour to be, Madam, your Majesty's most obedient servant and soldier, WOLSELEY.

[*Cypher Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to Mr. Goschen.*

10th Jan. 1896.—I should be glad to know some particulars about mobilisation of Flying Squadron, as beyond information in newspapers, I have no knowledge as to what prompted it or for what particular purpose it is intended.

Mr. Goschen to Queen Victoria.

ADMIRALTY, 10th Jan. 1896.—Mr. Goschen presents his humble duty to your Majesty and begs to report as follows :

When the message of President Cleveland¹ had arrived, and the results which might flow therefrom had to be considered, the position of our Naval force on the American station had to be thoroughly examined in relation to the number of ships of the United States.

As the United States have a very large proportion of their whole strength near their own shores, whereas it is only comparatively a weak squadron which Great Britain keeps there in normal times, Mr. Goschen thought it his duty to take timely precautions, while at the same time taking no steps which would cause irritation. It occurred to him that the best method would be to revive the name of the Flying Squadron, which used at one time to exist, and to have a force which would be ready in any emergency and for any purpose.

While contemplating this step the Transvaal episode occurred, with all its attendant dangers : the menacing tone of the German Emperor's message, the

¹ The message about Venezuela. See vol. ii, p. 462.

suggestion of aid to the Transvaal on the part of other Powers, and a general uncertainty as to what incidents this country might have to confront. Such a situation rendered the formation of the Flying Squadron specially desirable, and Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain, with whom Mr. Goschen was in communication, cordially approved the plan. The step seemed also likely to show the country the rapidity with which, in critical times, another squadron could be got together.

The commissioning of the torpedo boats was more of an administrative measure. These boats ("destroyers" is their name rather than "torpedo" boats) are of a new type, with a special form of boiler, and have to be commanded by young officers. It is held, therefore, to be extremely important to exercise both officers, bluejackets, and more especially stokers, in these extremely fast and peculiar vessels; and accordingly each ship in the Channel Squadron and the Flying Squadron have had one "torpedo destroyer" attached to them. It is intended that their crews shall be frequently changed.

This measure has not been intended to be of the nature of "mobilisation," though it has been so regarded. The press fasten at the present moment on every step taken, with a tendency to exaggerate and sensationalise it.

Mr. Goschen trusts that these explanations are what your Majesty desired to receive.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 10th Jan. 1896.—Saw Mr. Chamberlain, who was very interesting in all he told me about the Transvaal, and is very firm and sensible. He is much shocked at William's telegram. (I had a letter¹ from him to-day, in answer to mine, declaring he never intended to offend England, but the explanations are

¹ This letter, in which the German Emperor explained that he looked upon the Jameson raiders as rebels against his Grandmother, and only acted in the interests of peace and of German investments in the Transvaal, was printed in Lee's *Kino Edward VII*, vol. i, p. 726.

lame and illogical.) Mr. Chamberlain is strong about all that was settled in the Treaty of 1884 being maintained, by which it is stipulated that the representatives of the Transvaal cannot make any treaties, etc., with foreign countries. This will be formally maintained, whether the so-called "Suzeraineté" was abrogated in '84 or not. It makes no difference as to what is necessary to prevent the complete independence of the Transvaal.

Just as I was dressing for dinner, Beatrice came in to tell me she had received a telegram direct from Sir F. Scott saying: "Prince Henry is suffering from fever, slight, but sufficient to prevent going on to the front."

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

10th Jan. 1896.—With regard to your draft despatch to Sir F. Lascelles reporting German Ambassador's remarks as to question of my suzerainty of South African Republic, hope you will consult Law Officers, and that, if they consider Convention of 1884 did not invalidate preamble of 1881, you will stoutly maintain the position on that particular point established by latter instrument.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

10th Jan. 1896.—. . . The question was referred to the Law Officers by the late Government. The opinion given by them was not very favourable. The embarrassment arises, not from the terms of the Convention, but from a letter written at the same time by Lord Derby¹ to President Kruger, which almost surrenders the position. The opinion will be sent to you.

On Wednesday Lord Salisbury had another interview with Count Hatzfeldt,² at which he pointed out that a veto on all engagements with foreign Powers must be considered in conjunction with the refusal

¹ The 15th Earl, Colonial Secretary in 1884.

² German Ambassador in London.

which is recorded to admit that the Republic was independent. Count Hatzfeldt maintained the abrogation of the suzerainty with more than his usual emphasis. Lord Salisbury absolutely refused to admit this view. . . .

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 11th Jan. 1896.—Can think of nothing but dear Liko. It is a terrible anxiety for poor Beatrice. Telegraphed and heard his faithful servant Butcher was with him, having been allowed to accompany him. Heard that dear Liko had been sent to hospital ship with a medical officer. We are dreadfully distressed and worried, and feel how keen the disappointment will be for him. Christle,¹ Sir F. Scott said, was well. Leila E[rrroll], Harriet P[hipps], Lord Dartmouth, Lord Bridport, Rosa Evans, Mr. Chamberlain, and Sir A. Bigge dined.

Mr. Chamberlain got a cypher, which Sir A. Bigge deciphered after dinner. It was from Sir H. Robinson, saying there was a hitch. Kruger would not release the prisoners, unless we took the rank and file back to England. Very preposterous, but something must be done about it.

Queen Victoria to the Prince of Wales.

[Draft.]

OSBORNE, 11th January 1896.

DEAREST BERTIE,—I send you here the answer I received yesterday to my letter from William, which please return when done with. I have since heard that the Government (William's) had nothing to do with this outrageous [telegram]² which has created such a sensation, which, however, fortunately is cooling

¹ Prince Christian Victor of Schleswig-Holstein, Prince Christian's elder son, who was also serving in the Ashanti Expedition.

² Queen Victoria had been misled on this point. The Council of Ministers had met specially, under the Emperor's Chairmanship, to discuss the situation, and the telegram was sent with the concurrence of the Chancellor, Prince Hohenlohe, and the Foreign Minister, Baron von Marschall. Marschall told Sir Valentine Chirol it was a *Staatsaktion*. See *Fifty Years in a Changing World*, by Sir V. Chirol, pp. 279–281 ; and Lee's *King Edward VII*, vol. i, ch. 38.

down. It would not do to have given him "a good snub." Those sharp, cutting answers and remarks only irritate and do harm, and in Sovereigns and Princes should be most carefully guarded against. William's faults come from impetuosity (as well as conceit); and calmness and firmness are the most powerful weapons in such cases. Lord Salisbury's great strength is his great calmness and energy, both of which Mr. Chamberlain possesses.

You will, I know, be grieved to hear that poor dear Liko has got fever, though slightly, as we heard from Sir F. Scott, and has ventured back to the ship this morning. It is a terrible disappointment for him, but we heard this morning that the fever is declining, so perhaps he may yet go back. It is a terrible trial for darling Beatrice, but she is so patient and brave and good. I am quite proud of her. . . . Ever your devoted Mama, V. R. I.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 12th Jan. 1896.—Lord Salisbury . . . respectfully expresses his deep gratitude for your Majesty's kind and considerate letter. The knowledge that he has your Majesty's confidence makes the anxieties of the present troubled time easy to him. He respectfully thanks your Majesty for showing him the Emperor's letter. The German Emperor has always had the profoundest reverence for your Majesty; and much of its kindly and friendly tone is due to that strong feeling. Something also is due to his having written the despatch in a moment of excitement; and to his seeing now that he made a mistake. Lord Salisbury would respectfully advise your Majesty fully to accept all his explanations without enquiring too narrowly into the truth of them; and to write in a tone of full belief in his friendly professions. It might be opportune for your Majesty to express regret that the newspapers in both countries should say so many things calculated to diminish the friendship which the two peoples would naturally entertain for each other.

Count Hatzfeldt's language, especially yesterday, supports the idea that the Emperor has really been trying, during the last six months, to frighten England into joining the Triple Alliance. It is impossible for your Majesty to do so; because the English people would never consent to go to war for a cause in which England was not manifestly interested; and Lord Salisbury, during the present Ministry and during his previous Ministry, has always declined on this ground. It is of no use promising what probably cannot be done. But Count Hatzfeldt now wants a secret engagement signed by Lord Salisbury, and three or four of his colleagues; and he enforced this view yesterday in many warnings of the danger of isolation. But the demand is quite inadmissible. Isolation is a much less danger than the danger of being dragged into wars which do not concern us. . . .

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 14th Jan. 1896.—Beatrice read letters and telegrams to me after tea. Soon afterwards heard the following good news of Liko: "Slept well, has taken nourishment this morning, symptoms show great improvement, is able to undertake journey." This has given such joy to dear Beatrice, who has been in such cruel suspense. Another telegram came saying Liko had reached Mansu.

15th Jan.—Wrote a short letter to William, accepting his explanation that he had meant no offence to England by his telegram.

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.*

OSBORNE, 14th Jan. 1896.—. . . Lord Salisbury mentions the impossibility of coming to any secret agreement with any one or two Powers. But he will recollect an agreement which was signed between, she thinks, [us and] Germany and Austria, or some other Power, binding us to concert together or something to that effect, either in '90 or '91, or sooner, which is a precedent.

Affairs now are so different from what they used to be, that the Queen cannot help feeling that our *isolation* is dangerous. Does Lord Salisbury not think that we angered the other Powers when we refused last spring to join the other Powers about China and Japan?

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

15th Jan. 1896.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty to your Majesty respectfully thanks your Majesty for the copy of the German Emperor's letter. He has told Monsieur de Courcel¹ that your Majesty would gladly receive President Faure; but that you could not be at Nice before the 14th of March, starting from here on the 12th.

The secret alliance of which Count Hatzfeldt spoke was an alliance binding England to go to war under certain conditions. It is almost impossible for an English Government to enter into such an alliance as this, because when the crisis came, and the decision of peace or war had to be taken, the Parliament and people would not be guided in any degree by the fact that the Government had some years before signed a secret agreement to go to war, but entirely by the cause for *which* it was proposed to go to war, and their interests and feelings in respect to it. Their fury would be extreme when they discovered that their Ministry had tried to pledge them secretly beforehand. The secret agreements which were signed with Italy and Austria some years ago, contained no sort of promise to go to war.² They only contained declarations of policy, in accordance with the well-known policy of England, and carefully avoided all reference to active measures. . . .

HATFIELD. [*Undated.*]—Lord Salisbury . . . respectfully returns the Empress Frederick's letter, which he has read with painful interest. Words are quite inadequate to describe these horrors.³ But

¹ French Ambassador in London.

² See vol. i, pp. 244, 268–272, 276, 292.

³ The Armenian atrocities

England's strength lies in her ships, and ships can only operate on the seashore or the sea. England alone can do nothing to remedy an inland tyranny; and the other Powers will not move.

Queen Victoria to Mr. Chamberlain.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

15th Jan. 1896.—Am much pleased with the firm and distinct tone of your message of 13th to Sir H. Robinson. It is excellent.

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

COLONIAL OFFICE, 15th Jan. 1896.—Mr. Chamberlain . . . begs to thank your Majesty for your gracious message.

Sir Hercules Robinson has now concluded his visit to Pretoria and returned to the Cape. He does not appear to have obtained any definite promise of reforms from President Kruger, which is a matter for regret.

Mr. Chamberlain feels however that, in the present rather excited state of feeling among the Boers, the time would not be well chosen for further pressure; but he hopes at a later date to resume negotiations with this object. Meanwhile, it appears probable that no incidents of much interest are likely to occur for some time in South Africa, in which case Mr. Chamberlain does not propose to trouble your Majesty with further telegrams, unless otherwise instructed by your Majesty. . . .

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 16th Jan. 1896.—Received good news about dear Liko whilst we were at breakfast. He has arrived safely at Cape Coast Castle, and gone to the hospital at Connor's Hill. The improvement is maintained. Beatrice received a telegram from Liko himself saying: "Have been very ill, but thanks to the unceasing care of Dr. Hilliard and Butcher, I have safely arrived here."

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

16th Jan. 1896.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully thanks your Majesty for a copy of the letter to the German Emperor. It is entirely suited in Lord Salisbury's judgment to the occasion, and he hopes will produce a valuable effect.

Lord Salisbury missed Mr. Austin's poem.¹ But he has heard it strongly condemned by many persons both from a political and a literary point of view. It is a pity that this effusion was his first performance. Unluckily, it is to the taste of the galleries in the lower class of theatres, and they sing it with vehemence.

Lord and Lady Salisbury beg to offer their respectful congratulations on Prince Henry's improvement. The suspense during the interruption of the cable must indeed have been terrible. Your Majesty's most satisfactory telegram has just arrived. Lord Salisbury respectfully thanks your Majesty for it.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

17th January 1896.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—His Majesty the King of the Belgians has honoured me with another visit.² His confidences are so extraordinary that I hesitate to put them into a despatch; and therefore I will ask *you* to let the Queen know the matters which in ordinary case would reach her through a despatch. He reverted to the idea of a lease from the Khedive (under our influence) to himself of that part of the Nile which is now in the hands of the Mahdists. He dwelt with great fervour on their excellent military qualities and on the profit we could draw from them if we had them in our service. This result was to be brought about by our lessee (himself), and he seemed to recognise no difficulty in the task he was undertaking. When he had subdued them, and made them pliant instruments of England's will, they would be at

¹ Mr. Alfred Austin's poem on the Raid. Lord Salisbury had recently recommended his appointment as Poet Laureate. See vol. ii, p. 582.

² See vol. ii, pp. 577-579.

our disposal for any work we wanted done. We should have to pay them some money ; but in that condition we could do what we liked with them. We could use them for the purpose of invading and occupying Armenia, and so putting a stop to the massacres which were moving Europe so deeply ; and which could not be arrested unless we had at our command a powerful military force with which to occupy the province. The idea of an English General at the head of an army of dervishes, marching from Khartoum to Lake Van, in order to prevent Mohammedans from maltreating Christians, struck me as so quaint, that I hastened to give the conversation another turn lest I should be betrayed into some disrespectful commentary. I preserved throughout the attitude of a listener. He made several pauses in order to give me an opportunity of breaking in and imploring him to take the lease of the Mahdi's country. But I made no sign, and at last he retired (with a shower of compliments, but) in despair. Yours very truly,
SALISBURY.

Queen Victoria to Sir Arthur Bigge.

OSBORNE, 21st Jan. 1896.—Lord Salisbury's account of the King of the Belgians' visit is quite preposterous, and really seems as if he [King Leopold] had taken leave of his senses. The Queen has written to Lord Salisbury about it. . . .

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 22nd Jan. 1896.—A terrible blow has fallen on us all, especially on my poor darling Beatrice. Our dearly loved Liko has been taken from us ! Can I write it ? He was so much better, and we were anxiously awaiting the news of his arrival at Madeira. What will become of my poor child ? All she said in a trembling voice, apparently quite stunned, was, "The life is gone out of me." She went back to her room with Louischen,¹ who, as well as dear Arthur, has been most tender to her.

¹ Late Duchess of Connaught,

There is such grief in the house. Dear Liko was so much beloved. Went over to Beatrice's room and sat a little while with her, she is so gentle, so piteous in her misery. What have we not all lost in beloved, noble Liko, who has died in the wish to serve his country! He was our help, the bright sunshine of our home. My heart aches for my darling child, who is so resigned and submissive. God in His mercy help us! It seems as though the years '61 and '62 had returned, also the time when we lost dear Leopold.

The beloved remains are being brought back by the *Blonde* to Madeira, where we had hoped dear Liko would recover and Beatrice go out to join him. This makes it all the more pathetic. She will not hear of it *being said that Liko ought not to have gone, and in a way she is right.* She talks so heartrendingly of her vanished happiness. They were so absolutely devoted to one another. God bless and help my poor child! We have telegraphed for Franzjos and Louis.¹ Telegrams are already coming in in great numbers, and are very kind. Dear Beatrice came over to wish me good-night. I dined alone with Arthur and Louischen. My grief is great, and I am quite unnerved by the shock of this dreadful news.

Mr. Chamberlain to Sir Arthur Bigge.

COLONIAL OFFICE, 23rd January 1896.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR BIGGE,—The arrangement with President Kruger was that the rank and file of Jameson's force, who are domiciled in South Africa, should be sent quietly to their homes without further proceedings.

The remainder of the rank and file (278 persons) and certain minor officers are to be brought to England on a hired ship, the *Harlech Castle*, and will probably be discharged in batches along the South Coast.

¹ Prince Henry's brothers, Prince Francis Joseph and Prince Louis of Battenberg.

Every possible precaution will be taken to prevent public demonstrations in their favour.

Dr. Jameson and his officers (about 12 in number) are to be brought home in the transport *Victoria*, which also brings reliefs from India. Before their arrival warrants will be applied for against them for breach of the 11th clause of the Foreign Enlistment Act. They will be brought before the Magistrate at Bow Street, and *prima facie* evidence tendered. There will no doubt be several remands, at the conclusion of which it is probable they will be committed for trial before one of H.M. Judges. The officers in H.M. Army are answerable to the military as well as to the civil authorities, but I imagine that nothing will be done by the former, until the conclusion of the judicial proceedings.

I should be very glad to have information as to the health of her Majesty and of the Princess Beatrice, under the strain of their recent terrible bereavement. I am, yours very truly, J. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

[Copy.]

OSBORNE, 27th January 1896.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—*The New Order*.¹ I have directed a Patent and Statutes to be drafted in accordance with the Queen's commands. I think it is wise to keep it entirely in her own hands, if she is disposed to bear the expense, which ought not to be large.

People will value it more as the expression of her own feelings; and, if many decorations are given to foreigners, it will be an advantage that the bestowal of them should be admittedly unconnected with current political controversies. . . . Yours very truly, SALISBURY.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 4th Feb. 1896.—To describe this mournful day and all that took place at Portsmouth would

¹ The Royal Victorian Order.

be impossible. I will try and put down what I saw. Directly after luncheon, heard that the *Alberta* was in sight, and I hurried off as quickly as I could, driving down to Trinity Pier with Louise, Drino,¹ Ena,² and Jane Churchill. The two younger children followed with the governess and nurse. The minute guns began their sad solemn salute, the bells in the ships tolling, and the *Alberta*, with the Royal Standard half-mast, slowly passed through the Flying Squadron, gliding noiselessly up to the pier. In another minute my carriage drew up and I got out. Arthur was there to meet me, and I was rolled across the gangway, and then walked to where, on deck, between the funnels and the saloon, covered with the Union Jack and flowers, the beloved remains were resting, guarded by the two poor brothers and nephew, and sweet Beatrice entirely veiled in black standing at the head of the coffin.

I can hardly write about it, the scene was so terribly affecting and pathetic, on a beautiful evening all lit up by a glorious setting sun. I was completely overcome when I placed my wreath. I could not realise it was *he*, dear bright Iko, who was always going down to Cowes, so devoted to sailing and boating, and anything to do with the sea. That he should die at sea, and be brought back this long voyage, is too strange, too pathetic.³

13th Feb.—At half-past five dear Beatrice came to my bedside to wish me good-bye. It was very sad, and seemed so strange to have to part with her, going alone to Cimiez with the children, but it was the best thing she could do for herself, she said very sadly, and she "hoped to have more courage to go on" when we met again. She thanked me for all my kindness during this terrible time, and I was much upset.

¹ Now Marquis of Carisbrooke.

² Queen of Spain, 1906-1931.

³ Prince Henry of Battenberg's body was brought to Portsmouth in H.M.S. *Blenheim* on 3rd February, and was buried at Whippingham on 5th February.

14th Feb.—Wrote a letter to be published in the papers, thanking my people for their kind sympathy with Beatrice and me in our great sorrow.

[*Telegram.*] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

BERLIN SCHLOSS, 23rd Feb. 1896.—Colonel Swaine¹ is coming to-day to take leave of me. He has been here for over ten years, and filled his position in such first-rate manner that his going away is a matter of general regret. As he is a personal friend of mine and was much liked by Papa and Grandpapa, I hope you will approve of my giving him the Star of 2nd class of Red Eagle. WILLIAM I. R.

[*Copy.*] *Queen Victoria to the German Emperor.*

WINDSOR CASTLE, 23rd Feb. 1896.—In reply to your gracious wish to confer a high decoration on Colonel Swaine, though it is contrary to rule for such to be accepted, I am glad to make an exception in this case, considering his length of service as Military Attaché at Berlin, and also on account of the personal friendship with which you have always honoured him. V. R. I.

Colonel Swaine to Sir Arthur Bigge.

QUEEN'S HOTEL, FARNBOROUGH, HANTS, Monday, 2nd March 1896.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—When I left Berlin the Emperor had completely given up all idea of coming to Cowes this year, and his Majesty told my wife that he would be away in Norway this year during the period of the Cowes week.

I had told several people some time ago that it would be impossible for his Majesty coming this year, in hopes that it would reach the Emperor's ears; but to the general public I have placed the reason on the deep mourning the Queen is in. It is no use making things worse than they are. . . .

¹ Afterwards General Sir Leopold Swaine.

[Copy.] *Sir Arthur Bigge to Mr. Ritchie.*

WINDSOR CASTLE, 3rd March 1896.

DEAR MR. RITCHIE,—The Queen desires me to write to you on the subject of floods in the Thames. After the very heavy flood of November 1894, the disastrous results of which her Majesty, who was here, fully realised,¹ the Queen understood that steps were to be taken to mitigate the severity of any future inundations. But her Majesty is surprised to learn that practically nothing has been done in this direction, and that the Thames Conservancy Board, after eleven months, have issued a Report in which they more or less repudiate any responsibility so far as the control of the floods is concerned.

It is true that fortunately the floods are not of frequent recurrence. But at the same time the Queen cannot help thinking that it is unwise not to profit by experience, and not to be forearmed against any further invasion of Father Thames. For the suffering among the poor in Windsor and Clewer was certainly very considerable, though every means was taken by the Queen and others to relieve the distress ; while the effect on the general health of the locality and the fact that Eton College had to disperse are considerations not unworthy of notice.

The Queen feels sure that you will cause strict enquiries to be made into this very important matter, and ascertain what are the views upon it of those residing in this neighbourhood, and also in the higher parts of the Thames valley ; and that you will satisfy yourself that the Conservators adopt the most effective measures to, at all events, minimise the evil effects of these periodical floods. I am, dear Mr. Ritchie, yours very truly, ARTHUR BIGGE.

Mr. Ritchie to Sir Arthur Bigge.

HOUSE OF COMMONS LIBRARY, 6th March 1896.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—I need hardly say how glad I should be if I could see my way to doing anything

¹ See vol. ii, pp. 450–1.

effectual to remedy the grievances in connection with the Thames floods in which the Queen takes so much interest. I have been making enquiries as to whether any powers are vested in the Board of Trade which would tend to prevent a recurrence of the calamity of which just complaint has been made; but I am afraid that such powers are of a very limited character. The Thames Conservancy Board are a navigation and not a drainage authority, and though, to a certain extent, their action with regard to the navigation would affect the possible results of floods of a certain gravity, it is extremely improbable that anything they could do under their Act would diminish the probability or modify the influence of the heavy floods which have caused the suffering and misery referred to by her Majesty. A difficulty in the way, even with the limited action which the Thames Conservancy can take, arises from the attitude adopted by millowners in the upper part of the river, who strenuously object to any reduction in the statutory level of the water, and also by occupiers of low-lying lands who benefit by the periodic flooding of these lands. Further difficulty is caused by the attitude of certain Eton and Windsor residents, who persist in their refusal to incur any expenditure for the prevention of the floods of which they complain.

I have, however, agreed to receive a deputation of residents in and near Windsor interested in the question, and will learn from them what action they think the Thames Conservancy Board may be usefully pressed to take, and after having received the deputation, I shall be in a position to determine whether the steps which it is desirable to take can in any way be furthered by my department. It must, however, be remembered that the Board of Trade have no powers whatever as regards drainage. The Local Government Board is the department charged with questions of flood prevention. Having regard, however, to the interest which the Queen takes in the

matter and to the undoubted gravity of the question, you may rest assured that I will do all I can, in conjunction with the Local Government Board, to bring about a better condition of things than has unhappily previously prevailed. I am, dear Sir Arthur, yours very truly, C. T. RITCHIE.¹

[Copy.] *Sir Arthur Bigge to the Marquis of Lansdowne.*

WINDSOR CASTLE, 8th March 1896.

DEAR LORD LANSDOWNE,—. . . Her Majesty does not think that the decoration which she wishes to give to all who took part in the Ashanti Expedition should be of the character of a memorial to Prince Henry of Battenberg. The Queen would like it to be a mark of her appreciation of the manner in which the expedition was carried out, in a deadly climate, an expedition in which two Princes of the Royal Family served, and where the rank and file showed great pluck and endurance, although there was no fighting.

The Queen therefore makes the following proposal, and trusts there may be no difficulty in carrying it out, *viz.* that the *decoration* should take the form of a small Latin Cross, and bear upon it the inscription, "The Queen's Cross, Ashanti, 1896."² Yours very truly, ARTHUR BIGGE.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 8th March 1896.—Lenchen,³ Christian, and Christle came to luncheon, and the latter gave me King Prempeh's⁴ umbrella, stool, and

¹ Sir Arthur Bigge replied on 8th March that the Queen, while thanking Mr. Ritchie, trusted "that the deputation which you have consented to receive will appreciate your good intentions, and on their part facilitate your action by pendent suggestions as to the future action to be adopted by the Thames Conservancy Board." See below, p. 35.

² The War Office and the Commander-in-Chief had objected to the Queen's proposal, on the ground that there was no precedent for giving a medal where there had been no fighting. But the Queen persisted. Eventually, the Cross was changed for a Star to meet the probable objection of the Houssas to the Christian symbol.

³ Princess Christian.

⁴ The King of Ashanti.

chair. Feo¹ also came to luncheon, and showed me the statuette she is doing of Liko in his campaigning uniform.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.
[Cypher Telegram.]

12th March 1896.—Humble duty. Strong representations from Italy and also from Egypt induced the Cabinet to think it desirable to authorise a diversion being made to prevent dervishes from taking Kassala.

We thought that the safest way of doing so was to authorise an advance of Egyptian troops as far as Dongola. As no time was to be lost, I telegraphed to Lord Cromer² at once. We acted, of course, in concert with the Commander-in-Chief.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.
[Cypher Telegram.]

GRAND HÔTEL DE CIMIEZ, 13th March 1896.—I highly approve proposed action to help the poor Italians.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.
[Cypher Telegram.]

16th March 1896.—. . . Italian Government on Saturday night changed their mind again, and resolved to hold on to Kassala.³ After consultation with military authorities we have resolved on an advance up the Nile, having for its ultimate object the occupation and retention of Dongola. Time and manner must depend on military exigencies, and on position and movements of enemy, of which at present we know nothing. This was result of Cabinet to-day. I quite agree with your Majesty as to Lord Cromer's letter.

¹ Countess Feodora Gleichen.

² British Consul-General in Egypt.

³ On the 14th, Lord Salisbury had telegraphed that the Italian Government had resolved to evacuate Kassala.

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.*

16th March 1896.—Your cypher of to-day. Approve decision, but in face of Lord Cromer's opinion¹ am a little anxious.

Shall be glad to know something of composition of force, and hope to hear that enough troops will be sent.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 16th March 1896.—Mr. Balfour with his humble duty to your Majesty begs humbly to inform your Majesty that the rumours current in the newspapers respecting the proposed advance up the Nile Valley led naturally to an immediate discussion in the House of Commons. There was some doubt as to what form the discussion should take, but Mr. Labouchere finally settled the question by moving the adjournment. He made a characteristic speech attacking the Government, the Italians, the policy of retaining Egypt, the policy of advancing towards Dongola. Sir Charles Dilke followed on the same side, but in a more earnest and statesmanlike manner. He seemed to suppose that the Government were committed to a policy of advancing not merely to Dongola but to Darfur; and he prophesied every species of disaster from such an enterprise. Sir W. Harcourt followed; but he contented himself with dark prophesyings, and reserved his main attack till a later date. Mr. Balfour followed. He stated that the policy of the Government was based on the double set of considerations arising out of the recent defeat of the Italians, the siege of Kassala, and the desira-

¹ It is clear, from what Lord Cromer wrote in *Modern Egypt*, vol. ii, pp. 83, 84, that, while he agreed that the policy of eventual reconquest of the Soudan was sound, he thought that the decision of the Government was taken after inadequate consideration. "At the time, I was inclined to think the action premature, but there could be no doubt that, when once it had been decided to act, no effort should be spared to ensure success. . . . It was manifest that the advance should either not be undertaken at all, or else that it should be made with the intention of permanently occupying the country at once as far as Dongola, and eventually at least as far as Khartoum."

bility of checking by a timely advance the possibility of a fresh outburst of fanaticism. The adjournment, after a speech of Mr. Courtney directed as usual against the party to which he belongs, was rejected by a majority of over 140.¹ . . .

Dr. Warre² to Sir Arthur Bigge.

ETON COLLEGE, WINDSOR, 20th March 1896.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR BIGGE,—I called to-day at the Winchester Tower, and found that you had gone to London. I should have liked to have told you about the Deputation to Mr. Ritchie and its result.³

I am afraid that, notwithstanding sympathy expressed, it will be very difficult to move the Conservancy Board, on which there are only 6 representatives of the Upper River, against 32, who care nothing for our misfortunes.

The only real way out of the present utterly unjust condition of things is legislation dividing the jurisdiction over the tidal waters of the Thames from that over the non-tidal waters, assigning the latter to a totally different body, and giving them the contribution of the Water Companies as their Sustentation Fund, with full powers to improve the river with a view to faulty navigation and prevention of floods. This is what we shall have to agitate for, but I suppose it will take some time. . . . With kind regards, yours very sincerely, EDMOND WARRE.

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.*

CIMIEZ, 21st March 1896.—The Queen is delighted to see what large majorities the Government have had, and how strongly and well Mr. Chamberlain and of course Mr. Balfour have spoken about Egypt.

¹ On 20th March, Mr. Morley moved a vote of censure on the Government policy in the Soudan; but was beaten by 288 to 145.

² Headmaster of Eton 1884–1905, Provost 1909–1920.

³ The Queen, when Mr. Ritchie sent her Majesty his report on the Deputation, directed Sir Fleetwood Edwards to reply on 27th March that she trusted “that some means may be found to insist upon action being taken in the direction suggested by the Deputation, with a view of mitigating, if not preventing, the evils complained of.”

It is very satisfactory to see how pleased the Emperor of Austria¹ is by the gift of the Colonelcy-in-Chief of the First King's Dragoon Guards. He was most cordial, felt rather anxious about the East, but said (though he evidently regretted it) that he quite understood the impossibility of our binding ourselves to any particular policy which might lead us into war. He hoped our countries would always go together, and repeated several times how important it was that England and Germany should be on the best terms together, and one thing he felt sure of, *viz.* that everyone wished for peace. He thought Lobanoff² very clever, but did not know what his policy was. The Queen regretted Kalnoky, which he also did, but said that it was impossible to keep him, and he *recommended* Count Goluchowsky³ very much. . . .

We have had beautiful weather; but alas! the contrast to last year is very great, a heavy cloud overhangs our poor house everywhere, and all seems to have lost its charm and interest, though the beautiful scenery and vegetation are soothing and enjoyable. We are well and the beloved Princess quite admirable in her courage and patient resignation.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.
[Cypher Telegram.]

21st March (1896).—Humble duty. Debate and majority 145 last night very satisfactory.

On the present lines of gradual but sure advance, present policy is popular. Lord Cromer presses now very earnestly that we should ultimately advance to Dongola and should not retreat again.

French Ambassador renewed his assurances that the French Government do not wish to drive us out of Egypt, nor to introduce any sort of International Government. He wished consideration for the feel-

¹ The Emperor and Empress of Austria had visited the Queen at Cimiez on 18th March.

² Russian Foreign Minister.

³ Austrian Foreign Minister.

ings of France. I pointed out that the presence of our troops was the keystone of the whole structure of our authority there. He seemed to admit it, but only pressed generally for friendly action on our part primarily. I suggested that he should see Lord Cromer when he comes away on leave. He seemed to assent to this. . . .

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

CIMIEZ, 22nd March 1896.—Rejoice to hear of the intended proposal not to retire from Dongola. We each time hitherto always retired, and had always to do the work over again.

Every day I feel the blessing of a strong Government in such safe and strong hands as yours.

[*Telegram.*] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

NAPLES, 24th March 1896.—When we were just steaming out of Genoa a letter from you was thrown on board. I was unable to answer it, as it was impossible to stop the ship. I therefore by telegraph venture to express my warmest thanks for the kind letter, and hope that the stay at Cimiez will in every respect be good for your precious health. So glad Aunt Beatrice is going on well. Our journey was good but rather foggy. Henry and Irène¹ well, very sorry meeting was impossible. WILLIAM.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

CIMIEZ, 29th March 1896.—Saw Lord Salisbury and had a good deal of talk with him on all subjects: Egypt, and the necessity of getting the Soudan back, and of preventing the Italians being further defeated, which this time they have been by the dervishes; of the Russian and French opposition being really too preposterous, as any measures taken have nothing whatever to do with them, but are solely for the safety of Egypt and also to afford some help to the poor

¹ Prince and Princess Henry of Prussia.

Italians ; of the outbreak in Matabeleland; of Germany and William's wish to put things straight again.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

10 DOWNING STREET, 31st March 1896.—. . . At twelve o'clock this morning Sir John Gorst introduced the Government measure on Education. He made a statement of admirable lucidity ; and one which was very well received by the House. The measure is intended to effect four main objects : (1) the support and preservation of voluntary schools ; (2) the decentralisation of our existing system of elementary education ; (3) assistance to poor board schools ; (4) the organisation of secondary schools. These are objects of very great magnitude ; and the machinery for carrying them out is necessarily complicated. Moreover, the whole question of primary education is so embittered by sectarian jealousies and bitter controversies of long standing that we cannot hope for our Bill an easy passage through its various Parliamentary stages. Nevertheless, the first of these stages has been got through as successfully as the most sanguine supporter of the Government had dared to hope, which, so far, is of good augury for the future. The debate died away about 5.30, and the House separated for the holidays.

Queen Victoria to Mr. Chamberlain.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

CIMIEZ, 2nd April 1896.—I am much grieved at the outburst in Matabeleland, and at the terrible murders of whites. I fear it will not be easily put down.

Fear also Sir H. Robinson is not fit for all these emergencies. What do you mean to do ?

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

10 a.m., 3rd April 1896.—Your Majesty's telegram received. No fresh outrages are reported. Men,

arms, and ammunition, are being sent up, and I am in communication with the War Office as to temporary loan of officers from regiment in South Africa.

Sir H. Robinson is of course no longer young; but your Majesty may be I think assured that he is alive to the situation, and is taking all necessary precautions. His reputation for wisdom and coolness gives confidence in times of emergency such as the present.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

CIMIEZ, 6th April 1896.—Very soon after luncheon, dear Minny of Russia [the Empress-Mother] and her two youngest children, Michael and Olga, arrived. I received her at the door. She looks still very young, though very sad, so like dear Alix in her way of speaking, and very simple. She talked much of dear Alicky, Nicky,¹ and the baby. I spoke to her about being very unhappy, that, since the death of M. de Giers, Russia was no longer nearly so friendly to England, and begged her to mention this to Nicky. She said she would do so, and could not understand the coolness.

8th April.—I saw Lord Salisbury, who seemed very well. Spoke of the incredible behaviour of Russia, who was urging and encouraging France against us with regard to Egypt. He said there was no sensible statesman in England who was not anxious for a good understanding with Russia; but there is a feeling amongst our people against her, and, if she shows herself to be so unfriendly, it will make it very difficult for the Government. Speaking of Egypt, Lord Salisbury said that the ultimate object and intention was to go to Khartoum and restore it to Egypt, but time was needed for that.

Queen Victoria to Mr. Chamberlain.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

CIMIEZ, 15th April 1896.—Fear my opinion of Sir H. Robinson is shared by many. You should be prepared to send someone to succeed him.

¹ The Emperor and Empress of Russia.

Only a few days ago he would not hear of troops being sent up, and now he is doing just the reverse. . . .

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

15th April [1896], 9.20 p.m.—Humble duty. I have consulted many authorities having local and intimate knowledge of South Africa, and they confirm me in the opinion I have formed, that for guerilla warfare or contests with native tribes British and Imperial troops are much less suited than the local volunteer forces.

The previous war in Matabeleland was successfully carried through at a comparatively small cost. Had Imperial troops been employed, it would have been as expensive as Warren's expedition, which cost nearly a million. British troops are less mobile than Colonial forces, and are not accustomed to native warfare. For these reasons I agree with Sir H. Robinson in thinking that the former should be only used in an emergency. In the present case it appeared probable that they could be moved to the front more quickly than newly raised additional forces of volunteers. The question of employing troops to put down the rising is separate from the question of permanently increasing the Cape garrison for Imperial reasons. War Office is now arranging to carry out the latter object.

I desire earnestly to represent to your Majesty the impolicy of making any change during the present crisis. Dutch feeling is strongly excited at the Cape ; and any false step might precipitate a war of races, and involve this country in an enormous expenditure and even considerable danger.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

22nd April 1896.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty to your Majesty respectfully submits that a Cabinet was held to-day. The principal subject of discussion was the state of business in the House of Commons. Mr. Balfour pointed out that unless more

time was given to the Government it would be impossible to pass Bills so full of difficulty and offering so many points of attack as the Education Bill, the Rating Bill, and the Irish Land Bill. After much discussion it was resolved that on Friday Mr. Balfour should move to give the Government the whole time of the House.

The despatches and telegrams of Lord Cromer were then considered. A telegram was drawn up, informing Lord Cromer that Indian troops might be sent to Suakin ; and that the English troops in Egypt might be employed in the advance to Dongola. The Cabinet at the same time expressed its reluctance to send troops from England, in view of the events which were passing in South Africa.

Some additional armoured gunboats were ordered to be built for service on the Nile.

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegrams.*]

28th April [1896].— . . . Following is the first of the further telegrams to High Commissioner :

“ Unless you obtain a satisfactory reply immediately, it is desirable that you should go to Pretoria to use influence. Her Majesty’s Government could not tolerate the execution of death sentence¹ on men who surrendered arms on your representation.”

11 p.m.— . . . Following is text of second of the further telegrams to High Commissioner :

“ Telegraph names of four prisoners sentenced to death, also number of others sentenced to imprisonment and fines ; does this dispose of all the prisoners ? When you deal with question of commutation bear in mind that sentences now passed are unexpectedly severe and excessive, and that we assume they will be all reduced in a spirit of moderation and with a view to allay race feeling and prevent further irritation.”
CHAMBERLAIN.

¹ The death sentence had been passed on the four principal Uitlander Reformers tried at Pretoria. See Introductory Note.

Queen Victoria to Mr. Chamberlain.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

CIMIEZ, 29th April 1896.—Many thanks for keeping me so well informed. Feel very anxious about South Africa. Highly approve your firm tone and action. Cannot think Kruger (whom with his Volksraad I greatly distrust) will commit so monstrous an act as to carry out the sentences.

We leave in less than an hour. Pray send news on to the principal stations, as I am most anxious to hear.

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

29th April 1896, 4 p.m.—Humble duty. Following telegram just received from Sir Hercules Robinson April 29th :

“Following telegram received from British Agent to South African Republic: ‘April 29. Doctor Leyds just told me that sentence of death has been taken off from the four prisoners. Not yet decided what punishment to substitute. Executive Council now engaged with sentences on all prisoners.’ ”

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 5th May 1896.—. . . A Cabinet was held to-day. It was entirely occupied with the South African situation, as developed by the telegrams recently published at Pretoria. It was resolved that it would be impossible to grant a Parliamentary enquiry so long as the Jameson trial is going on, as the action of the Parliamentary Committee might prejudice the administration of justice. But an enquiry into the working of the Chartered Company in South Africa must be held; and could not be delayed any longer, when once the Jameson trial was over. It was understood that the Company were prepared to accept the resignation of Mr. Cecil Rhodes as administrator; and it was resolved that the Government should acquiesce in this step on the part of the Company.

*Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.**[Cypher Telegrams.]*

6th May 1896.—Sir F. Lascelles 22 of 5th May. Think these messages should be received with much reserve, and that it would be well to let the German Emperor know we do not wish to quarrel with Russia.

[*Same day.*]—Cromer's 132 makes me very anxious. Hope there will be no delay in sending Indian troops, and trust that plan of operations is being carried out with full concurrence of home military authorities. Lord Wolseley has no faith in the fellaheen soldier.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.**[Cypher Telegram.]*

6th May 1896.—. . Arrangements are now being made for sending Indian troops to Suakin. A regiment of fellaheen will be left at Suakin, by the personal wish of the Khedive; but the Indian troops will be enough for its defence without the assistance of the fellaheen.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 13th May 1896.—After luncheon held a Council and saw the Duke of Devonshire before. Spoke with him on various things, and he remarked on the enormous majority there had been the night before, the largest ever known, being 267.¹ This came from the Irish Radicals having voted with the Government, having been urged by the priests to support it, as by this Bill all denominations would get more power. I expressed the hope that in the debates something would be able to be done, rendering education more practical for the working classes, who were being taught useless things. The Duke quite agreed, and hoped this would be the case. It was intended to give the management of the schools more to the County Councils and less to the School Boards,² the

¹ On the second reading of the Education Bill.

² This policy was not carried out until the passage of Mr. Balfour's Education Bill of 1902.

latter being too exclusively bent on literary education, whereas the former, composed of all classes, would be sure to be more practical.

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to the Duke of Portland.*

WINDSOR CASTLE, 16th May 1896.—The Queen having just instituted a new order to be given to those who have rendered personal service to herself, wishes to confer the Grand Cross upon the Duke of Portland on the occasion of her birthday, as a mark of her appreciation of his valuable services as Master of the Horse at the present time, and also on the occasion of her Jubilee.¹

Lord Roberts to Sir Fleetwood Edwards.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL, DUBLIN, 24th May 1896.

DEAR EDWARDS,—Will you please offer to the Queen my most respectful thanks for being so gracious as to give permission for my warrior charger to wear the Afghan medal and Kandahar Star? I am delighted and most grateful.

On behalf of Lady Roberts, our son, daughters, and myself, I beg to present to the Queen our respectful duty and warmest congratulations on this her Majesty's birthday. Believe me, yours very truly,
ROBERTS.

The Queen Regent of Spain to Queen Victoria.

[Translation.]

(?) May 1896.—You can well imagine how, with this war in Cuba, my heart is full of grief and sorrow. We are now in a most critical position, as on the one hand, the war being protracted, so many men perish there in fighting and of illness, whilst, on the other, in this country bad harvests and dearth of food are to be expected. The attitude of the United States is also very doubtful: whilst their Government promise us

¹ The Queen bestowed the new Order (the Royal Victorian Order) on several members of her Household, on this year's anniversary of her birthday.

neutrality and friendship, Americans send money, arms, and ammunition to the insurgents, which of course increases the resistance of our enemies. President Cleveland advises Spain to make concessions to the rebels *at once*, in order to obtain peace; but we cannot make concessions to the Cubans till they lay down their arms.

Mr. Cleveland also offers to act as a mediator between the insurgents and Spain; but this, above all things, would hurt the national feeling of the Spaniards, and I could *never* accept it, as we know *how* sedulously they work in America against us in favour of the insurgents. I therefore confidently turn to you, dear aunt, to tell you my grief and sorrows, and to entreat you to assist me in these trying circumstances, as you always have done, with your good advice and with your powerful friendship.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[25th May 1896.]—Letter from Queen Regent of Spain. Lord Salisbury with his humble duty would suggest that, after expression of deep sympathy, your Majesty should reply that in your judgment little good would come from proclaiming concessions, until the revolt in Cuba is suppressed or at least until a conspicuous victory has been won. Reforms proclaimed, until the rebels had been beaten, would not induce them to lay down their arms. They would only be encouraged to insist on entire independence. United States will do all the mischief they can without going to war. There is great goodwill in England towards Spain; but of course England cannot join in suppressing insurrection. She would be glad to give any assistance that is possible without breaking her neutrality.

The Duke of Connaught to Queen Victoria.

[Telegram.]

Moscow, 26th May 1896.—Coronation just over in splendid weather; most glorious and impressive ceremony; were four hours in church; we left our house

8.10 returned 4.35. Alix dressed in silver; both she and Nicky were much moved with solemnity of the occasion, both send their love. Minny looked very sad. We are both so glad to have been able to assist at this most interesting and historical ceremony. Wish you good journey. ARTHUR.

The Emperor and Empress of Russia to Queen Victoria.
[Telegram.]

Moscow, 27th May 1896.—Tenderest thanks. Thank God all went off well yesterday, glorious sunshine. NICKY, ALIX.

Sir Nicholas O'Connor¹ to Queen Victoria.

Moscow, 31st May 1896.—. . . A most untoward and horrible catastrophe took place early yesterday morning in the Khodinsky Plain, about three miles from Moscow, a brief account of which Sir N. O'Connor had the honour of transmitting by telegraph to your Majesty.

The news of many accidents and several deaths reached the Imperial Tribune before the arrival of their Majesties; but, although the fearful extent of the calamity must have been unknown to few on the Plain, there were none who did not greet the arrival of the Emperor and Empress with frantic enthusiasm. Far as the eye could reach there was a human sea above which rose the hats of countless numbers too far off to hope that their shout would reach the Imperial ears, but anxious to demonstrate in the only way possible their welcome. The booming of the cannon and the cheers of the crowd made such a deafening noise that the National Anthem, sung by hundreds and thousands of young voices, was almost lost in the general medley of sound and peals of rejoicings. Again and again the Emperor and Empress had to show themselves in the front of the Pavilion, and it was nearly four o'clock when their Majesties retired. The Emperor passed through the

¹ British Ambassador in St. Petersburg.

room of the Corps Diplomatique looking unusually pale, and his brow contracted, as if with some great moral strain.

It is difficult to find in history any stronger instance of unbounded fealty than was shown by hundreds of thousands of Russian subjects who yesterday, in the midst of the dead and dying, lost all consciousness but that of loyal devotion to their young Sovereigns, and forgot in their demonstrative enthusiasm the sad sight from which they had just come.

Their Imperial Majesties entered the Kremlin, only to hurry off to the hospitals where they spent several hours, comforting and consoling the wounded and afflicted, and promising liberal provision for the bereaved members of their families.

Even yet it is difficult to learn any complete explanation of the causes of the accident, but certainly there seems to have been a lamentable want of foresight on the part of the police authorities in allowing such a vast concourse of people to assemble overnight and sleep on the ground, feeling probably the pangs of hunger in the early morning, while aware that the Emperor's liberality provided countless repasts at hardly a stone's throw from where they lay or stood.

It appears that the ground was cut up by trenches and very uneven, and once a forward movement began nothing could stop the human wave that surged over the bodies of the fallen. A particularly gruesome tale is told of some wells that were covered with boarding which gave way under the weight, carrying with them all that were passing at the moment and swallowing up those who came after till the whole space was filled with agonising bodies. There are scenes and incidents too terrible and harrowing for the Queen's ears, but, if there be in all this ghastly story one bright feature, it is the certainty that notwithstanding warnings from several places, and very definite and specific ones from Switzerland, that an attempt would be made by the secret Nihilist Societies

on the life of the Emperor during the Coronation, the police have not detected any trace or evidence whatsoever of such sinister designs, nor were any symptoms of public discontent manifested by the people against the authorities, notwithstanding the inefficiency of the police precautions. Indeed, it is said that the main concern of the peasantry who saw the terrible scene was to know whether their Tsar and their Tsaritsa would know of it, and how it could be kept from their knowledge.

Sir Nicholas O'Connor called upon Prince Lobanoff to-day and told his Excellency of the deep concern shown by the Queen upon hearing the terrible news, and at the same time expressed the deep sympathy of your Majesty's Government on the sad occasion.

The Emperor and Empress of Russia to Queen Victoria.
[Telegram.]

MOSCOW, 2nd June 1896.—So deeply touched by your kind thought at this terribly sad calamity ; your dear words were indeed a comfort ; very best love.
NICKY, ALIX.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 3rd June 1896.—Dear Georgie's¹ birthday, may God bless, protect, and guide the dear boy !

Queen Victoria to Sir Nicholas O'Connor.
[Cypher Telegram.]

BALMORAL CASTLE [? 4th June 1896].—I fear the number of poor victims has increased. The papers speak of a very angry feeling being evinced amongst the people in Moscow. Trust there is [no] cause for alarm or danger to the Emperor and Empress. Also fear poor Serge as Governor [of Moscow] may be blamed.

There seems to have been lamentable want of proper prudence, *i.e.* allowing such a number of people to collect in one spot, and to keep order. It is most grievous.

¹ Now H.M. the King.

Sir Nicholas O'Connor to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

4th June 1896.—Pending result enquiry which will probably be ended to-night, it is difficult to say exactly where blame rests, although there appears to have been almost criminal want of foresight on the part of the police.

There is naturally considerable popular discontent, but it will subside if severe punishment is given in proper quarters after publication of official report. I do not think there is any cause for alarm on account of danger to Emperor and Empress.

Their Imperial Majesties have daily visited hospitals, and are unremitting in attention to the suffering. Their Imperial Majesties dine here to-night. . . .

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 8th June 1896.—. . . On the Colonial vote this evening Sir W. Harcourt made an elaborate attack on Mr. Rhodes, based on the cypher telegrams which have been recently divulged. He went over each telegram in detail, and like a Counsel for the prosecution, he showed (as unfortunately he had no difficulty in showing) that Dr. Jameson's raid arose out of a deliberate conspiracy in which Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Beit, directors of the Chartered Company, were involved, and which was promoted by resources which belonged to the Company. He loudly called for the immediate dismissal of Mr. Rhodes, declaring that this course was necessary in the interests of British honour and South African security.

Mr. Chamberlain replied; but, refusing to be confined to the limited questions arising out of the cyphered telegrams, he made a general survey of the South African problem. He pointed out that harmony between the Dutch and English populations was necessary to the future of South Africa. He enumerated some of the difficulties which have in the past disturbed that harmony; and he gave a succinct

account of the negotiations which have taken place between him and President Kruger respecting the visit of the latter to this country. He concluded by pointing out the great services in the past which Mr. Rhodes has rendered to South Africa. He did not attempt to minimise his (Mr. Rhodes') recent errors ; but while promising to institute a full enquiry into the management of the Company, he refused in the meanwhile to require the Company to dismiss Mr. Rhodes. The latter has been deprived of all powers of evil. He may still be powerful for good, and Rhodesia is in difficulties. Rhodesia ought not to be compulsorily deprived of his services, at least without further investigation. . . .

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.
[*Cypher Telegram.*]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 9th June 1896.—I am delighted at the excellent news¹ from the Soudan Sunday and to-day. It will do immense good. As on former occasions, I telegraphed to the Sirdar through Lord Cromer, congratulating him. Perhaps you would desire Lord Cromer to offer my congratulations to the Khedive. . . .

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

14th June 1896.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully expresses his sincere thanks for your Majesty's very gracious letter.

Before receiving this your Majesty will have received a full report of his speech on Friday, and will have observed that the orders given to General Kitchener were that he was not to go beyond Dongola *without leave*. The object of this order is financial. The further campaign from Dongola to Khartoum may cost from one to two millions. Egypt has not got the money : she is prohibited by International Law from borrowing ; and there is at present no appearance that either the Cabinet or the House of

¹ Of the battle of Firket. See Introductory Note to this chapter.

Commons would be willing to impose the burden on the British Exchequer. At present, therefore, the money could not be obtained. It may be obtained without difficulty later, as Egypt grows richer.

In 1884 it was the financial difficulty which placed us at the mercy of Bismarck and of France. It led to the disastrous Conference of London. It enabled our enemies to exact what terms they pleased, because Egypt was on the verge of bankruptcy. It would be most unwise to tumble into that pitfall again.

[*Translation.*] *Slatin Pasha*¹ to *Queen Victoria*.

FIRKET, 20th June 1896.—. . . The defeat of the enemy was complete, whilst we had only 24 dead and over 80 wounded. Immediately after the fight I rode over the battlefield. I found the dead bodies of Hamoda, the Commander-in-Chief, of Yusef Angerer, commander of the enemy's infantry, of Mohammed Anif, the commander of their cavalry, and of many others besides. I was moved by strange feelings. I had been in personal intercourse with many of these men during my captivity; one or another had been friendly to me, even sympathetic, but most of them had been only intent upon annihilating or upon humiliating the white race; and now they lay before me dead . . . in just punishment of their fanaticism in defending a bad cause. Many a one of them, I dare say, had felt secret sympathy for the Government, and inwardly had wished for the termination of the lawless condition of his country and to join us again, but they missed the favourable moment, and who can, in a battle, separate the chaff from the wheat?

The enemy's wounded were taken care of, the prisoners were treated well, and all of them were sent to Wady Halfa as speedily as possible. They were astonished at the clemency and the mercy with which

¹ An Austrian by birth, he was formerly Governor of Darfur, and was long a prisoner in the hands of the dervishes. He was at this time serving with the Intelligence Department of the Sirdar's force. He stayed at Balmoral in the autumn of 1895. See vol. ii, p. 565.

they were treated, they who by their predatory excursions and murdering so many innocent people had, I dare say, all deserved death. I visited the prisoners in order to get information about our enemy at Dongola, and in order to ascertain their number and their intentions.

An Arab woman of the tribe of Habamiah, who had seen me formerly at Darfur, recognised me; she had lost her husband and many relations in the battle. "Saladin" (Slatin), she screamed at me, "you escaped in order to come back to us with fire?" I declared calmly, not I, but the supreme Government was going to reconquer this country for the sake of order and security; but she, who had left her country in order to live on the prey made by her husband and relations, should mind the Arab proverb, "As the sowing such is the reaping." Well aware of the truth of these words, she bent her head. . . .

Sir Arthur Bigge to Queen Victoria.

20th June 1896.—Sir Arthur Bigge humbly reports that he yesterday cyphered privately from himself to Lord Cromer: "Suppose all reasonable precaution taken for Slatin's safety, especially as regards possibility of assassination by an emissary of Khalifa under disguise of a deserter." Lord Cromer replies: "I do not think there is much danger of assassination; but I will draw the Sirdar's special attention to the subject."¹

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

19th June 1896.—I am somewhat alarmed at the position of the Government regarding the Education Bill. The action of the Opposition is deplorable, but even supporters of the Government now advocate withdrawal of the main features of the Bill.

¹ Lord Cromer next day reported that the Sirdar had telegraphed: "I don't think there is any cause for alarm as to Slatin's safety. All arrivals from the enemy are carefully examined before entering the camp, and kept under guard till the object of their coming is quite clear."

I doubt the prudence of Parliament adjourning from August to January (of which proposal by the way I was not informed), thus subjecting this important Bill to months of attack from political agitators. Would it not be better for the Government to stand by their measure and reassemble in November, and pass it more or less intact?

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 20th June 1896.—Fifty-nine years since I came to the throne! What a long time to bear so heavy a burden! God has guided me in the midst of terrible trials, sorrows, and anxieties, and has wonderfully protected me. I have lived to see my dear country and vast Empire prosper and expand, and be wonderfully loyal! Received many kind telegrams.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

20th June 1896.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully submits to your Majesty that a Cabinet Council was held to-day. Some time was passed in discussing the question of the payment of the Indian troops and President Kruger's telegram of yesterday demanding the trial of Mr. Cecil Rhodes. No change was made in the policy of the Cabinet as already adopted in either case, but it was agreed that Mr. Chamberlain should have a free hand in advising the Board of the Chartered Company on the question of accepting Mr. Rhodes' resignation as Chairman. He was advised, however, to abstain from any action against Mr. Rhodes until the trial of Dr. Jameson was over, and the precise facts which were provable had been ascertained by the verdict of a jury.

The Cabinet then decided, according to the resolution of the ten Members of the House of Commons which was telegraphed to your Majesty last night, to drop the Education Bill and to reintroduce it in January. It was obviously impossible to proceed with it in opposition to the views of all the Cabinet Ministers who sit in the House of Commons.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

[*Same day.*].—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty. I received your Majesty's letter after the Cabinet was over. I had expressed, in the strongest language I could use, my sense of the great danger of the decision to which they were coming. It would be giving an unexampled triumph to obstruction, and it would gravely demoralise the Ministerial Party.

All the Members of the House of Commons remained strongly in the determination to drop the Bill. I am very uneasy as to the probable consequences of this step.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

20th June 1896, 5.30 p.m.—I must earnestly beg you to call another Cabinet and lay before it my views before any announcement is made as to the decision regarding the Bill.

I deprecate in the highest degree a step which I consider may be disastrous to the Government, especially when at this present moment, with so many foreign difficulties, I feel more than ever the necessity for preserving a bold front.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

22nd June 1896.—. . . Cabinet was held according to your Majesty's commands; and the question was rediscussed. The Members of the House [of Commons] remained unshaken in the view that it was impossible to pass the Bill; and on this they were unanimous. This result is partly due to unexampled obstruction by the Opposition; partly to the character of the subject, which was exceptionally complicated. The Cabinet under these circumstances was compelled to drop the Bill.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 22nd June 1896.—. . . The main business of the early part of this evening was a discussion on the dropping of the Education Bill.

Mr. Balfour moved a resolution which would have the effect of putting an end to the measure for the present session. He pointed out that the experience of the last week conclusively showed that it was, so to speak, physically impossible to pass the Bill in the course of the present Session. It was easy for the Opposition to keep discussion going until, by the mere efflux of time, the period when next Session must begin would come round. Under such circumstances the Government would be in the disastrous position of either abandoning, after many months' debate, the measure altogether, or of endeavouring to keep it alive by some violent innovation on ordinary Parliamentary procedure. This was not a course the Government were anxious to pursue, nor were they prepared at present to proceed by the drastic method of "closing in compartments." The only remaining alternative was to drop the Bill for the present, and introduce one early in January next, covering, at least in part, the same ground. Mr. Balfour went on to deride the idea that this course would do any material injury to the Government, and pointed out that all Governments in all Sessions had been compelled to pursue the same course with regard to some of their most important measures. He *did*, however, anticipate that such obstructive methods might at no distant date necessitate such a change in the rules of procedure as might deal a heavy blow at the prestige of the House of Commons. Sir W. Harcourt replied, his chief point being the withdrawal of the Bill was due rather to the imperfections of the measure itself, and to the division of opinion among its supporters as to its details, than to the obstructive tactics of the Opposition. . . .

[*Draft.*] *Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.*

BALMORAL CASTLE, 23rd June 1896.—I cannot refrain from expressing my deep regret at the Cabinet's decision to drop the Education Bill, and I heartily sympathise with you in the situation in which you have been placed.

Mistakes in framing so complicated a Bill, and miscalculation as to the opposition it might incur, I can perfectly understand. But that a very strong Government should on a Monday, with the unanimous approval of its supporters, determine on a line of action affecting a measure of first-class importance and before the end of the week entirely abandon this decision, seems to me incredible, and will not I fear be any more understood by the country generally.

I earnestly trust that there will be no further withdrawals of Queen's Speech Bills.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 30th June 1896.—. . . Mr. Chaplin moved the second reading of the "Auto-motor Car Bill," the object of which is to remove the absurd restrictions¹ which the existing law imposes upon mechanical carriages. The measure passed its second reading, and was also referred to a Grand Committee. . . .

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 3rd July 1896.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully submits that a peerage be conferred upon Sir Hercules Robinson.² He is strongly recommended by Mr. Chamberlain for the honour; and his long and distinguished career during fifty years of public service, and as Governor successively of several important Colonies, would fully justify his promotion. He is now about to retire on grounds of health, and the reward would have a good effect on the Colonial service.

Lord Salisbury has enquired into his fortune. He is not rich; but the fortune seems to be adequate.

4th July.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully submits that a Cabinet was held to-day. The principal subject of deliberation was the enquiry

¹ One of which was that the mechanical carriage must be preceded by a man carrying a red flag.

² He was created Lord Rosmead.

which must be instituted into the Chartered Company and its administration as soon as the Jameson trial is over. It appears that the Opposition object very much to a joint Committee of the two Houses; and as it is desirable to avoid any party debates on a subject which has many thorny incidents, it was resolved to accept the view of the Opposition, and have a purely House of Commons Committee. . . .

The Duke of Sparta¹ to the King of the Hellenes.
[*Cypher Telegram.*]

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, 26th July 1896.—The Queen hears from Constantinople that the Powers unanimously agreed in Constantinople not to interfere with the Sultan in Crete unless Greek Government can restrain the importation of arms and ammunitions and maintain peace. She has asked me to beg you to use your utmost influence to stop this grave state of affairs. I promised to do so, and represented the difficulty of preventing the sending of arms and ammunition to Crete. CONSTANTINE.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.
[*Cypher Telegram.*]

OSBORNE, 31st July 1896.—I hope you will not join in a blockade of Greece which Prince Lobanoff now proposes, which is shameful considering his former proposals. He is a great misfortune. You will have found the Duke of Sparta frank and sensible. The King and Government are in a great difficulty.

I am sure you will require reinforcements in the Soudan after the losses sustained by cholera. It is most serious and sad.

The accounts from South Africa make me very anxious.

The Duke of Sparta says it is most important that the affair of Crete should be settled as soon as possible, or else the King's position will be untenable. . . .

¹ The Duke of Sparta, afterwards King Constantine of the Hellenes, was staying with the Prince and Princess of Wales, his uncle and aunt.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 31st July 1896.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty to your Majesty respectfully submits that a Cabinet was held to-day. In consequence of letters of enquiry which had been written by the Sirdar and Major Wingate,¹ it was resolved that after the occupation of Dongola the force should cease to advance farther towards the south; and should only advance eastward along the banks of the Nile as far as Merawi, where the cataract begins. An advance to Abu Hamed, above the cataract, would impose a greater financial burden on Egypt than she is competent to bear.

The Cabinet were informed that several of the Powers were disposed to suggest a naval blockade of Crete in order to prevent the Cretans from obtaining arms, and recruits in their struggle against the Sultan; and that Lord Salisbury had declined these overtures on the ground that England traditionally had always refused to interfere by force between insurgent populations and their Sovereign. Lord Salisbury also added that the recent proceedings of the Ottoman Government in Armenia made it very unfitting that England should join in helping the Sultan to subdue his subjects, unless there was some effective guarantee that the Sultan would deal justly and mercifully with his subjects. The Cabinet approved this policy. . . .

3rd Aug.—. . . Lord Salisbury will write to Mr. Chamberlain with respect to Sir H. Robinson. When Lord Salisbury wrote to your Majesty Sir H. Robinson was suffering under dropsy, and had been tapped for it; and the doctors gave so bad an account of his health that it was not thought possible that he would take part in any active life again. But since your Majesty granted the Peerage, Sir H. Robinson has apparently quite recovered, and there is consequently some difficulty. It is like the case of Sixtus the

¹ Then Director of Military Intelligence, now General Sir Reginald Wingate, G.C.B.; Sirdar and Governor-General of the Soudan, 1899-1916; High Commissioner for Egypt, 1917-1919.

Fifth.¹ But Mr. Chamberlain certainly contemplates replacing him, as he has been writing to Lord Salisbury about candidates.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 4th Aug. 1896.—Tea out, and drove with Sophie and Ismay S. to Trinity Pier, where we embarked on board the *Alberta*. The Empress [Eugénie] joined us, and my ladies and gentlemen were also on board. We steamed up to Spithead and through the really splendid Fleet. We went quite close to the large ships, amongst which was the *Blenheim*. We turned and passed through the Torpedo boats.

5th Aug.—Everybody was on the *qui vive* on account of the Chinese Ambassador. Took a short turn and sat in the tent. The Chinese Ambassador, Li Hung Chang,² arrived at one, and Bertie and Georgie came earlier and called on him. They lunched with us, and the Ambassador with the Household in the Durbar Room. Afterwards I went to the Drawing-room, where all the family and my ladies and gentlemen were assembled. Lord Salisbury introduced Li Hung Chang, who made a speech which was translated by his son into badly pronounced English, and I replied: "It gives me great pleasure to receive you here, and to make the acquaintance of so distinguished a Chinese statesman, who has devoted his life to the service of his Sovereign and country. It will always be my earnest desire to maintain the most friendly relations with China, and to promote commercial interests between our two countries. I hope you will enjoy your stay in England and, when you return to China, that you will inform the Emperor of my best wishes for his welfare and prosperity, as well as for that of his country." This was again answered by the interpreter, first in Chinese and then in English.

¹ The better opinion now seems to be that the story that Pope Sixtus feigned decrepitude in the Conclave, in order to win votes, is a pure invention.

² This famous Chinese statesman had attended the Coronation at Moscow, and afterwards visited several European capitals.

I asked a few other questions, and then Li Hung Chang retired as he came. Saw Lord Salisbury afterwards, who spoke of the Ambassador, to whom I gave the Grand Cross of the Victorian Order, and said he was a very shrewd man.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

7th Aug. 1896.—Lord Salisbury humbly submits. Your Majesty's Government have accepted the good offices of Portugal in settling the question of Trinidad,¹ and her decision is in favour of Brazil.

Our action has greatly assisted the Government of M. de Soveral, whose position was precarious and required immediate support. England will have right to land cable.

Sir Arthur Bigge to Sir Matthew Ridley.

[*Copy.*]

OSBORNE, 7th August 1896.

DEAR SIR MATTHEW,—Communications are being now almost daily received regarding the fact that within a few weeks the Queen will have reigned longer than any other British Sovereign; and various suggestions are offered, and enquiries made, as to the most fitting manner of celebrating the event.

The Queen, however, feels strongly that all such recognition and celebration should be reserved until her Majesty has actually completed the reign of sixty years.

Her Majesty therefore proposes that the Home Office should make some public announcement to this effect. Do you see any objection to such a course? If not, will you kindly submit the terms of the Communiqué for the Queen's approval?²

If you think it necessary to do so, pray mention

¹ Not the well-known West Indian Colony, but an uninhabited island in the South Atlantic, the possession of which had been disputed between England and Brazil.

² Such an announcement was drafted, approved by Lord Salisbury, submitted to the Queen, and published.

the subject to Lord Salisbury. Yours very truly,
ARTHUR BIGGE.

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to Viscount Wolseley.*

OSBORNE, 7th Aug. 1896.—. . . The Queen seizes this occasion to make a few observations to Lord Wolseley which she feels sure he will take in good part. Every word he utters or writes, now that he is in such a high and responsible position, is weighed not only at home but also abroad.

With regard to India the Queen hopes that Lord Wolseley will exert his influence to soothe the jealousy which many people consider exists between the Home and Indian army. Lord Wolseley, in his evidence before the Royal Commission, said “that India produced a great number of the ablest officers in the army, but they knew very little of the organisation of the Imperial Army . . . that he would not like to fight France or Germany or any other army with Indian troops.”

His opinion that India ought to pay every farthing of military and naval expense is hardly in accord with that of the general public. The telegram from Simla says: “The high authorities consider Lord Wolseley’s opinions as ill-judged, and calculated to create discontent in the Native army.” It is this which causes the Queen much regret and anxiety. She has always wished that the Home and Indian armies should consider themselves as one. . . .

Viscount Wolseley to Queen Victoria.

10th Aug. 1896.—Lord Wolseley . . . appreciates deeply the honour done him by the Queen in writing to him, and in giving him such good and useful advice.

He is frequently obliged to distribute prizes, and to take part in proceedings, where, much to his regret, as he hates speaking, he is called upon to say something. He strives upon these occasions to hide truth and honesty under the banalities of modern custom. But, do what he may, his enemies twist his remarks

into attacks upon men or systems which were not in his thoughts at the time, much less the objects of his remarks.

Lord Wolseley has never thought there was in recent years any rivalry, much less antagonism, between the Indian and what he may term the Home army. Ever since the Queen took over the direct Government of India, there has been, in Lord Wolseley's opinion, but one British Army; and he draws, and has never drawn any distinction between what some people still call the Queen's army and the Indian army. As regards the officers, he thinks the best men in both of those so-called two armies should be brought to the front in *all* parts of the Queen's Dominions. . . .

As regard the Indian army generally, Lord Wolseley . . . knows and highly appreciates their good and gallant qualities. But when, being examined by a Royal Commission, he is asked if the British Cavalry force maintained in India could not be safely withdrawn or reduced, he felt bound to answer "No." This answer at once led to the question being put to him by a civilian member of the Commission: "But are not the Indian Cavalry regiments quite as good as the English regiments?"

Lord Wolseley is strong on this point, for he believes that the great mutiny of 1857 was to a considerable extent due to the fact that the old East India Company had so pampered its sepoy that they began to believe themselves quite equal to the English soldier. To use an Afghan expression they had "got wind in their heads." . . . The history of all the great Empires, made up, as the Queen's Empire is, with auxiliary troops of many races and many creeds, is a warning against allowing the auxiliary to imagine himself his master's equal.

On the other hand, Lord Wolseley is often shocked when he is told of the rudeness and vulgarity of Indian officials and of their families to the Princes and gentry of India. It is impossible to do too much

to make them feel that we accept them with open arms as our friends and social equals; but he would never flatter the native soldier by allowing him to think himself the equal of the British soldier as a fighting man. Lord Wolseley thinks it would be highly dangerous to the Empire to do so. . . .

Lord Wolseley writes this in no argumentative spirit, for he well knows that the Queen's vast experience in these as in other public matters dwarfs all he may know into very small proportions, but he would like the Queen, in forgiving his shortcomings, to realise that he neither speaks nor writes without premeditation and serious thought.

Lord Wolseley hopes that the Queen, with the forbearance she has always shown him, will forgive this long letter.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

HATFIELD, 9th Aug. 1896.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully submits to your Majesty that he delivered your Majesty's message to Li Hung Chang, who received it very gratefully. He spent three hours here yesterday and saw a good many people; but unfortunately the Saturday sitting of the House of Commons kept a good many away whom he ought to have seen. Sir William Harcourt among others was here, and was presented to Li. "Are you not a great friend of Lord Rosebery's?" said Li. Sir William hesitated for a good minute, and at last plucked up his courage and said "Yes." But then Li went on, "Did not you and Lord Rosebery take the side of Japan in the war against China?" Sir William promptly broke off the conversation. . . .

Queen Victoria to Sir Nicholas O'Connor.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

OSBORNE, 9th Aug. 1896.—Would you let the Emperor be told or tell him yourself that I intended his visit to be a private one to the Empress's Grand-mother; I would not have a Minister there when he

came, or ask his Ambassador unless he wished it? The space is extremely limited. At Leith there would of course be a reception.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Queen Victoria.

WAR OFFICE, 12th Aug. 1896.—Lord Lansdowne presents his humble duty to the Queen, and he begs to explain to your Majesty the steps which, with the concurrence of his colleagues, he thinks should be taken in reference to the officers implicated in the recent raid into the territory of the South African Republic. These officers fall under three classes :

1. The *five* who were convicted with Dr. Jameson.
2. The *eight* who were discharged by the magistrate at Bow Street.
3. Col. Frank Rhodes, who was convicted at Pretoria of conspiracy against the Republic.

With regard to Class 1, there would appear to be little room for doubt. The five officers comprised in it have been convicted by a duly constituted Civil Court of having been engaged in the preparation of, and of having taken part in, a military expedition against a State with which your Majesty was at peace. Lord Lansdowne shares the opinion of his military advisers that they should not be permitted to continue in your Majesty's service, and he proposes that they be called upon to resign their commissions. The case of Colonel Rhodes also, though not identical with those of the five officers above referred to, must, Lord Lansdowne thinks, be similarly dealt with.

The cases of the eight officers discharged at Bow Street present considerable difficulty. Though they may be held to have been exonerated by the Magistrate's decision from the charge of scheming or preparing the raid, they undoubtedly took part in it, and, by that grave offence, have laid themselves open to the same penalty as is proposed for the principal offenders.

Believing, however, that they, or some of them, may have acted under the impression that they were

bound to obey the orders of their superior officers, or that possibly they had no knowledge of the fact that the leaders of the expedition received orders to return, Lord Lansdowne has thought it desirable to call upon them for any explanation of their conduct which they may desire to offer. . . .

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

COLONIAL OFFICE, 14th Aug. 1896.—Mr. Chamberlain . . . begs to submit the following arrangements for your Majesty's approval.

After the continuous work of the last seven months he proposes to take a short holiday; and, as Mrs. Chamberlain is anxious to visit her parents who are now unable to come to this country, he desires to take her to the United States on 26th August and to spend two or three weeks there, returning to England in the early part of October. During Mr. Chamberlain's absence Lord Lansdowne will attend to any matter which may arise, requiring the signature of a Secretary of State.

Mr. Chamberlain proposes, with Lord Salisbury's approval, to take this opportunity of seeing Mr. Olney, the Secretary of State of the United States, and of conferring with him, unofficially, in reference to the boundary between Venezuela and your Majesty's colony of British Guiana.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

15th Aug. 1896.—Before I reply to your letter about the officers concerned in Jameson's raid, I am anxious to know whether any decision regarding them should not be deferred until the House of Commons Committee has issued its report.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Queen Victoria.

WAR OFFICE, 17th Aug. 1896.—Lord Lansdowne . . . ventures to advise your Majesty that it would not be desirable to defer a decision with regard to

these officers until after the House of Commons Committee has reported.

The Committee cannot begin its work until next year, and the long delay would, under any circumstances, be unfortunate. The delay which has already occurred has been unfavourably commented upon, but Lord Lansdowne believes that, irrespectively of this consideration, the proper course to pursue is that of following the decision of the court by which the officers were tried. They have been convicted by that court, and the resignation of their commissions is the natural consequence of that conviction. Nothing which the House of Commons Committee may elicit can alter the finding of the court.

Lord Lansdowne takes this opportunity of informing your Majesty that he has now completed the examination of the cases of the eight officers who were discharged by the magistrate. These officers undoubtedly took part in the raid, but were not found guilty of organising it, and all of them on being questioned apart distinctly [said] that they believed themselves to be acting in obedience to the orders of their superior officers. Under these circumstances, Lord Lansdowne thinks that they should be ordered to return to duty with their regiments.

Lord Lansdowne trusts that the manner in which he proposes to deal with both sets of officers will have your Majesty's full approval.

Lord and Lady Lansdowne are leaving London to-night for the west coast of Ireland, where they hope to spend the next few weeks.¹

Sir Arthur Bigge to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

[Copy.]

OSBORNE, 18th August 1896.

MY DEAR LORD LANSDOWNE,—The Queen desires me to let you know that after reading your letter of

¹ In a letter of the same date to Sir Arthur Bigge, marked *Confidential*, Lord Lansdowne adds: "Supposing that the House of Commons Committee were to put an entirely new face on the matter, there would, I imagine, be no reason why the case should not be reconsidered, but for the present the finding of the Court holds the field."

yesterday to H.M. and also your "Confidential" to me, she gives her approval to the course which you advise should be adopted with regard to the five officers who were convicted, and are now undergoing sentence of the court, for their participation in Dr. Jameson's raid. The Queen at the same time notes what you say as to the possibility of reconsidering the case in the event of the House of Commons Committee proving facts which might throw a new light upon it.

In your previous letter you mentioned that you feared that Colonel Rhodes would have to be dealt with similarly to the five who were convicted. But the Queen does not gather that she is now asked to definitely approve of his being retired from the army.¹

H.M. is glad to think that the services of those officers who were discharged by the Magistrate are to be retained. Yours very truly, ARTHUR BIGGE.

The Prince of Montenegro to Queen Victoria.

[Télégramme.]

CETTINJE, 18 Août 1896.—J'ai le bonheur de faire part à votre Majesté des fiançailles de ma fille bien-aimée Hélène avec son Altesse le Prince Héritier d'Italie.—NICOLAS.

[Télégramme.] *The Queen of Italy to Queen Victoria.*

GRESSONEY, 20 Août 1896.—Je suis touchée de la bonté avec laquelle votre Majesté veut bien prendre part à notre grande joie. Nous ajouterons cette preuve d'affection et de bienveillance à toutes celles dont votre Majesté a comblé notre cher fils, et pour lesquelles nous vous gardons, ma chère tante, la plus affectueuse reconnaissance. Je transmettrai au Roi à Cologne vos affectueuses paroles.—MARGHERITA.

¹ In a letter to Sir Arthur Bigge on 20th August Lord Lansdowne regretted that his second letter was not distinct as to Col. Rhodes. He was to be treated in the same manner as the five convicted officers: "In some ways his conduct was more indefensible, for there can be no doubt whatever as to the part which he took in promoting the raid."

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 24th Aug. 1896.—After luncheon saw the celebrated Professor Pagenstecher from Wiesbaden, one of the greatest oculists in Europe, who is in England on his own account, but came here to Osborne especially to see me. He thoroughly examined my eyes, and feels sure he will be able to do something to improve my sight. The eyes he said were quite healthy. He is very pleasing and gentle, and encouraging. Mr. Nettleship, whom I had seen in May, is a friend of his, and he wished him to come down with him to see me.

*Mr. Schomberg McDonnell¹ to Sir Arthur Bigge.
Personal and Confidential.*

FOREIGN OFFICE, 24th August 1896.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—I hope you will treat this letter as absolutely a private matter between yourself and myself. I should not write on the subject, only I happened to see in your letter to Greville some mention of it; viz. the anxiety which is felt in many quarters that the Emperor [of Russia] should meet Lord Salisbury.

This was the point on which I was so keen to see you. I am told on excellent authority that, if this meeting took place, it would be regarded on the Continent as the best possible augury for peace, and also as more likely than anything else to frustrate Lobanoff's anti-English tendencies; whereas, if his Majesty's visit ends without his having seen Lord Salisbury, all the foreign journalists, and others, will infer that, however devoted the Tsar may be to the Queen personally, he is as hostile to England as his Chancellor.

I hear from private (not the ordinary diplomatic) sources in Russia, that it is believed Lobanoff wanted to try to settle the Cretan business without England; but that the Emperor would not stand it.

¹ Lord Salisbury's Private Secretary; son of the 5th Earl of Antrim; afterwards Sir Schomberg McDonnell, K.C.B.

I only arrived on Saturday, and have not yet seen Lord Salisbury, so I do not know what his views are. But I believe he understands that the Queen does not want *any* Minister at Balmoral when the Emperor is there; and no doubt he is relieved at not having to make a long journey north; but I doubt if he is fully awake to the effect that his attendance or his absence may have on the Continent.

Pray do not mention to *anyone* that I have written to you on the subject. Yours very truly, SCHOMBERG K. McDONNELL.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 25th Aug. 1896.—Saw Lord Salisbury and spoke of the sudden death of the Sultan of Zanzibar, which we feared was not a natural one. It will no doubt cause difficulties in the succession. There are two rivals, one of whom it is thought we ought to support.

Sir Arthur Bigge to Queen Victoria.

25th Aug. 1896.—Mr. Chamberlain submits the name of Mr. William Conyngham Greene as successor to Sir Jacobus de Wet as British Agent at Pretoria. He is at present Secretary of Legation at Teheran, and was once Chargé d'Affaires at Darmstadt, Athens, The Hague, etc. He knows some Dutch; is strongly recommended by the Foreign Office, and Lord Salisbury consents to his transfer.

It is thought advisable to have a person of some experience and position to hold his own with the French and German representatives at Pretoria.

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

COLONIAL OFFICE, 25th Aug. 1896.—. . . Lord Rosmead has been weakened by his very serious illness and Mr. Chamberlain understands that he does not contemplate a long stay at the Cape. His return, however, at this juncture is on the whole likely to be very useful, as he possesses in a singular degree the confidence of all parties in South Africa. At the

present moment what is most needed is a restoration of confidence, and any change in the High Commissionership would probably have caused a revival of alarming rumours.

Mr. Chamberlain has been anxiously considering whom he might recommend to your Majesty as Lord Rosmead's successor, but the choice is very difficult for such a responsible post, and will probably have to be made outside the Colonial service. Mr. Chamberlain is afraid that it would be impossible to find a suitable person who would be willing to go out in advance of his appointment; and his position would be anomalous and might lead to friction. Meanwhile, the appointment of a trained diplomatist of great experience to take the place of Sir Jacobus de Wet ought to strengthen the British position at Pretoria. Mr. Chamberlain does not attach any importance to the rumours, which are unconfirmed, of difficulties in Ashanti. . . .

Mr. Chamberlain will gladly avail himself of your Majesty's gracious permission to write to your Majesty from America.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Sir Arthur Bigge.

Private.

DERREEN, KENMARE, 25th August 1896.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—The Queen need have no misgivings on the score of legality.

She can, whenever she is advised to do so, say to any officer: "I don't think you are quite the sort of man to suit me, and I therefore propose to get rid of you; go quietly; if you don't, I will turn you out." This is violent, but indispensable. If we are to be put on our defence and made to disclose legal grounds whenever we get rid of a "bad ticket," the Army will come to grief. . . . Yours, L.

[Telegram.] *Foreign Office to Queen Victoria.*

27th Aug. 1896.—Acting Agent telegraphs from Zanzibar that Khalid paid no attention to ultimatum,

refused to leave Palace, and declared he would fight, accordingly firing commenced at appointed time and continued for about an hour. The guns on shore were speedily silenced and Palace destroyed. Fire was opened on our ships by Sultan's *Corvette*, which was sunk. Khalid took refuge with German Consul, who awaits instructions from his Government as to surrendering him. Hamoud has been publicly proclaimed Sultan. Only casualties our side, one British seaman badly wounded.¹

Mr. Schomberg McDonnell to Sir Arthur Bigge.
Confidential.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 27th Aug. 1896.—I understand that the Queen will ascertain whether the Emperor would like Lord Salisbury to be at Balmoral. If so, he will go; if not, he will remain at Walmer. S. McD.

[Telegram.] *Foreign Office to Queen Victoria.*

FOREIGN OFFICE, 29th Aug. 1896.—Sultan of Zanzibar requests Cave² to express his thanks for what has been done, and to submit to the Queen his loyal allegiance and unalterable devotion to her Majesty's person, and his earnest desire to be guided in all things by her Majesty's Government.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.
[Cypher Telegram.]

31st Aug. 1896.—Your letter of yesterday. German Government claims that their Consulate at Zanzibar is German territory.

We cannot admit this claim, and so we cannot agree to condition as to surrender of prisoner. But if Germany likes to keep him in the Consulate, it will not hurt us.

¹ Zanzibar had been a British Protectorate since 1890. On the death of the Sultan in August 1896, a cousin, Khalid, seized the Palace and proclaimed himself Sultan, though the successor recognised by us was a brother, Hamoud.

² Consul at Zanzibar; afterwards Sir Basil Cave.

The Emperor of Russia to Queen Victoria.

[Telegram.]

KIEFF PALAIS, 31st Aug. 1896.—Thank you for kind sympathy upon this sad event,¹ it is a very cruel loss I have sustained. Alicky all right. Wish you a good journey. NICKY.

The Prince of Wales to Queen Victoria.

[Cypher Telegram.]

1st Sept. 1896.—Sudden death of Russian Minister Foreign Affairs will cause great changes in Russian politics. Hope you will try your best to induce Emperor to appoint Russian Ambassador in London as his successor, if only for a short time; it is absolutely necessary for maintenance of better relations between England and Russia.

Queen Victoria to the Prince of Wales.

[Cypher Telegram.]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 2nd Sept. 1896.—Lord Salisbury says I could not interfere or suggest any appointment of his new Minister. . . .

We are trying to carry out your suggestions² as much as possible.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[Cypher Telegram.]

2nd Sept. 1896.—Humble duty. Your Majesty's answer appears to me entirely judicious. Any interference would probably become known, and would be resented by Russian statesmen.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

WALMER CASTLE, 2nd September 1896.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—The designs of the French upon the Upper Nile have been a subject of anxiety to me for some time; and we have shrewd suspicions

¹ The death of Prince Lobanoff, the Russian Foreign Minister, on 30th August, while travelling with the Emperor.

² The Prince of Wales had written from Homburg on 29th August a long letter suggesting arrangements for doing honour to the Emperor and Empress of Russia on their first visit after their accession.

that the King of the Belgians will give them a helping hand. But until we get the railway to Uganda, we can do nothing to oppose them. The distance to be traversed by troops marching from the coast would be about ninety days. The cost of carriage per ton is £112. It is evident we cannot, till the railway is made, compete with the water carriage of the Congo and the Ubanghi. The delay of the late Government, which I imagine was caused by Sir William Harcourt, leaves us in a position of no little anxiety. But for the next two years there is no remedy. We must trust to our luck. Yours very truly, SALISBURY.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 8th Sept. 1896.—After luncheon did a lesson in Hindustani with Abdul, who has just returned from India. It did not go very well, as I had forgotten a good deal, and not practised at all during his six months' absence.

Queen Victoria to the Prince of Wales.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 10th Sept. 1896.—The more I think over the question the stronger is my conviction that in order to do as much honour as possible to Emperor on his landing for the first time in this country as such, you should receive him on my behalf. Trust that you will be able to do this, as I feel sure it will have a good effect in Russia.

The arrival at Leith being in State, and your having met Nicky's grandfather at Dover on the occasion of his visit in '74, think you could not well do otherwise now. You could stay at Lord Rosebery's for the Sunday.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 11th Sept. 1896.—After luncheon saw Mr. Balfour. We talked over many important topics : Crete, which, thanks to Lord Salisbury's firmness and the concerted (at last !) action of the Powers, is likely to be settled ; Turkey, its horrors, and the impossibility of knowing what to do ; the Soudan, and one's

feeling anxious for the news of the capture of Dongola, as one knows there must be a fight; the Education Bill, which was not a satisfactory one, and that a better one, much smaller, would have to be introduced next year.

I am much struck, as is everyone, by Mr. Balfour's extreme fairness, impartiality, and large-mindedness. He sees all sides of a question, is wonderfully generous in his feelings towards others, and very gentle and sweet-tempered.

15th Sept.—Much grieved to hear of the death of dear old Mrs. Thurstone, for twenty years the faithful and devoted nurse of our dear children. She had been a great sufferer from gout these last two years, and died rather suddenly early this morning. She came to us when Affie was just a year old, and was most excellent and devoted. Beatrice loved her dearly, and always went to see her at Kensington Palace, when she was in London. She was within two months of completing her eighty-sixth year. Again a link with the past broken!

Queen Victoria to Sir Matthew Ridley.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

15th Sept. 1896.—The announcements in the press as to supposed attempts against the Tsar naturally cause increased anxiety, and the Queen relies upon you for taking every possible precaution for their safety.¹

Mr. Schomberg McDonnell to Sir Arthur Bigge.

FOREIGN OFFICE, *15th September 1896.*

MY DEAR BIGGE,—Many thanks for yours of the 13th. As you may imagine, I was delighted to hear

¹ In reply Sir Arthur Bigge received from the Home Office the most satisfactory assurances. Sir Matthew Ridley wrote: "None of our information points in the direction of an attempt on the Tsar or Balmoral. Quite the contrary. This, however, has in no degree affected our action in taking every possible precaution for his safety. And you may assure the Queen that we are doing everything we can think of to meet the occasion." Sir Edward Bradford, Commissioner of Metropolitan Police, writing on the 22nd, said: "The Emperor is safer in England than anywhere else in the world, and of this you can assure the Queen and all concerned."

that it was finally decided Lord Salisbury should go to Balmoral, because I think it would have been disastrous had he not seen the Emperor during his visit here; after all, the journey is not bad; and I will see that it is made as comfortable as possible so far as the railway is concerned.

Private.—I am sure you will forgive my mentioning it; but it is most necessary that Lord Salisbury's room should be very warm: a minimum temperature of 60° is the climate to which he is habituated, and a cold room is really dangerous to him. I am ashamed to bother you about so trifling a matter; but it is not so trifling as it may seem. . . .

Yours very truly, SCHOMBERG K. McDONNELL.

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

MASSACHUSETTS, 10th Sept. 1896.—Mr. Chamberlain presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and begs to inform your Majesty that he arrived in America after a pleasant voyage on September 2nd.

Mr. Chamberlain had a long interview with Secretary Olney on the 8th inst. in reference to the boundary in dispute, between Venezuela and your Majesty's colony of British Guiana, and hopes that good may result, although no definite settlement has yet been arrived at.

Unfortunately, although the great majority of educated Americans are friendly to Great Britain and desirous of peace, a feeling of hostility has been sedulously encouraged among the masses of the people; and no newspaper, and hardly any politician, ever has a good word for English policy or action. The motives of the British Government are invariably misrepresented and denounced, and appeals are constantly made to popular passion and prejudice. As a consequence the people at large are very ignorant of our institutions and character, and the political agitators use this ignorance for their own purposes.

At the present time the attention of the country is

absorbed in the preparations for the Presidential election which takes place in November. The best opinion is that Mr. McKinley, the Republican candidate, will win. He is a bigoted Protectionist, and is said to be surrounded by advisers who are unfriendly to England.

The Democratic Party is divided, and has two candidates. The majority has selected Mr. Bryan, a man previously unknown, who is a Socialist and an advocate of the free coinage of silver and the payment of debts in a depreciated currency. The more responsible Democrats have broken with their Party, and have put up another man to represent them on what is called the "honest money" programme. He has, however, no chance of success himself, and is only nominated in order to make a division in favour of Mr. McKinley.

The real contest is between the latter and Mr. Bryan. If Mr. Bryan is elected there will be a most serious financial crisis, as all confidence will be destroyed. On the other hand, if he is unsuccessful, there will be great discontent among the Western farmers, who have suffered from low prices, and who believe that Mr. Bryan's nostrums will help them.

The political situation is therefore very unsatisfactory; and it is not at all creditable to a nation which boasts of its intelligence and public spirit. I am convinced that at the present time the people of the United Kingdom are more prosperous and more secure than the people of the United States.

Sir Arthur Bigge to Queen Victoria.

16th Sept. 1896.—Humbly submitted. The Government of Victoria ask the Colonial Office whether the Parliaments of the several Colonies may send a congratulatory address to your Majesty on 23rd September. It is on that day that your Majesty's reign will have lasted longer than that of any other British Sovereign.

Note by Queen Victoria :

An Address perhaps could not be declined. But they should be told I consider myself 20th or 21st June [1897] as the day.

Bishop Davidson¹ to Queen Victoria.

MUIRHOUSE, DAVIDSON'S MAINS, 19th September 1896.

MADAM,—I know how much your Majesty has at present to think about ; and yet, at the risk of being intrusive, I must ask your Majesty to let me add a few lines of dutiful and loyal affection and thankfulness to the stream which will this week flow in upon Balmoral in grateful recognition of a reign now the longest as well as the most beneficent in English annals. That the blessing of our Heavenly Father may continue to rest in rich abundance upon your Majesty, amid the heavy trials and anxieties which the years have brought, is the unfailing prayer of all who recognise—and who does not ?—what this reign has meant for the peoples of the British Empire.

There is a rich significance in the fact that at the hour, when all previous records of English history are eclipsed by the length of your Majesty's gracious rule, your Majesty should also wield a personal and domestic influence over the thrones of Europe absolutely without precedent in the history of Christendom. For this, too, are thanks given to God by all who realise what that influence is, and how it tends to peace and goodwill.

It can be no small matter to the world's life that the occupants of the Imperial thrones of Germany and of Russia should at such a juncture bear the relation they do to your Majesty ; and during the present fearful stirring of men's minds in view of Eastern violence and wrong, nothing surely is more touching than the simple belief which those unlearned in political complications hold, that, somehow or other, "the Queen will set things right when she sees the Tsar." It betokens a loyal and genuine trust, born of

¹ Bishop of Winchester ; afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury.

long experience; and, however mistaken the notion of simple hearts that matters can thus readily be set straight, the fact that people say and think it is a striking evidence of what your Majesty is to tens of thousands of English men, women, and children, who know nothing of public life, but know and trust and reverence their Queen and believe in her influence for all that is good.

Your Majesty will know that I mention this merely as an example, one among many which have struck me, of the feeling of loyalty and trust which found expression in the Jubilee of 1887 and finds new occasion for it now. With honest apology for the intrusion of this letter, and with all loyal devotion, I have the honour to be, your Majesty's humble servant,
RANDALL WINTON.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 20th Sept. 1896.—We received the astonishing and satisfactory news that Dongola was captured, in the following cypher: "Sirdar telegraphs that report just received from the west bank, that gunboats have captured Dongola, its treasury, and everything in it." This is most satisfactory, and it is curious that it should take place on the anniversary of the battle of the Alma.

22nd Sept.—Heard of Nicky and Alicky's safe disembarkation, and of their departure from Leith. . . . Went down soon after half-past seven into the visitors' rooms, and waited there till we heard the church bells ringing and the pipes playing.

Punctually at eight, the procession reached the door. The escort of Scots Greys came first, then the pipers and torchbearers, and finally the carriage containing Nicky, Alicky, Bertie, and Arthur. I was standing at the door. Nicky got out first, whom I embraced, and then darling Alicky, all in white, looking so well, whom I likewise embraced most tenderly. She went round and shook hands with everybody who was standing in the hall. A very

smart Cossack had previously arrived, and was at the door. We all went into the Drawing-room, and Nicky's suite came in, Count Woronzoff Dashkoff, Prince Galitzine, Count Benckendorff. The dear baby was then brought in, a most beautiful child, and so big; after which Nicky and Alicky went to their rooms, and I quickly dressed for dinner, to which we sat down a little before nine. It was a family one: Nicky, Alicky, Bertie, Arthur and Louischen, Beatrice, Georgie and May, George Cambridge, Thora¹ and Franzjos, all the Princes being in uniform. Georgie, May and George C. came over from Glen Muick, where they are staying. It seems quite like a dream having dear Alicky and Nicky here. If only dear Liko were still with us, who would have been so delighted and so active!

Heard this evening that the Sirdar had crossed to the other side, where the dervishes were expected to make a stand, and the fighting would probably take place to-day or to-morrow.

23rd Sept.—To-day² is the day on which I have reigned longer, by a day, than any English sovereign, and the people wished to make all sorts of demonstrations, which I asked them not to do until I had completed the sixty years next June. But notwithstanding that this was made public in the papers, people of all kinds and ranks, from every part of the kingdom, sent congratulatory telegrams, and they kept coming

¹ Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein.

² The previous longest reign had been that of George III, who acceded on 25th October, 1760, and died on 29th January, 1820. Queen Victoria acceded on 20th June, 1837; and it might therefore be thought that it was not until Friday, 25th September, 1896, that her Majesty had exceeded her grandfather's record. *The Times* of Wednesday, 23rd September, 1896, thus explained the facts: "The actual regnant period of George III contained only thirteen additional days contributed by leap years—the 29th of February not occurring in 1800, owing to the rule for the correction of the calendar, and the King's death taking place on 29th January, 1820. But the Queen's reign is to be credited with fifteen such additional days since her accession to the throne. On this day, therefore—not, as the almanac would otherwise seem to show, on Friday next—it may be said with strict accuracy that she has reigned longer than any of her predecessors."

in all day. They were all most loyally expressed and some very prettily.

After dinner I had some little talk with M. de Staal¹ about public affairs, and he said it would be a very good thing if I spoke to Nicky on all the important points.

[*Telegram.*] *The Sirdar to Private Secretary, Balmoral.*

KERMA, 23rd Sept. 1896.—On this most auspicious anniversary of her Majesty's glorious reign, with humble duty and the homage of the troops I beg to report I have just reoccupied Dongola. The dervishes are in full retreat. Many important Emirs have surrendered; several guns, quantities of ammunition, and loot of all sorts have been captured; also many prisoners. Gunboats are pursuing to Debbeh. No British casualties. Colville from gunboat has hoisted flag over old ruined *Mudiria*.

Archbishop Benson to Queen Victoria.

PALMERSTOWN, CO. KILDARE, 23rd September 1896.

MADAM,—I must by one word on this great day assure your Majesty how with all your people I thank God with my whole heart for your Majesty's health preserved to us through such a beloved reign of ever-increasing honour and power.

"Praised be God" is the voice of every heart, and may He still long preserve your Majesty! Your Majesty's most devoted and dutiful servant, EDW. CANTUAR.

Sir William Harcourt to Queen Victoria.

MALWOOD, 23rd Sept. 1896.—Sir William Harcourt presents his humble duty to the Queen. Your Majesty's constant kindness and gracious goodness to him and to his family makes him hope that he may without presumption offer his heartfelt congratulations on an occasion which brings home to all your subjects the ever-present memory of your Majesty's reign, celebrated above all others by the period of

¹ Russian Ambassador in England.

time during which it has brought to this nation the longest and the greatest epoch of peace, prosperity, and happiness which its annals record.

The many millions who regard your Majesty's person with loyal and devoted affection rejoice that it has been given to you to see a greater Empire bound to your Throne by a deeper sense of the blessings which you will have brought to them.

And those who have had the honour personally to serve your Majesty, have had the privilege of knowing the happiness which has come to the Queen in the sight of the family by which she is surrounded in her home, who also fill the great stations of the world with her affectionate descendants.

Sir William can appreciate the delight with which the Queen has received the Empress of Russia and her child, as there dwells in his memory the fascinating picture of the beautiful and charming Princess whom he had the honour of seeing some years ago at Balmoral.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

24th Sept. 1896.—The Emperor is extremely well-disposed, and is anxious to put a stop to the Sultan's iniquities. He is very desirous of talking to you; M. de Staal is equally so. He is remaining in the neighbourhood.

What is to be done about Dongola? Surely not to retire as we did before, leaving the dervishes to return whenever they liked? Can it be held without danger of being attacked? Some settlement must be come to. Half-measures will be fatal, and it will be deplorable to have [to] begin it all over again.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Telegram.*]

24th Sept. 1896.—Humble duty. Respectfully thank your Majesty for two telegrams and congratulate you on the brilliant event in Egypt. The

loyal outburst yesterday must have been most gratifying to your Majesty. It would have been tenfold greater, but for the wish you had expressed on the subject. No retirement from Dongola is possible.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 24th Sept. 1896.—A large luncheon, to which, besides ourselves in the house, Georgie and May, Louise and Macduff¹ came. At a little after four dear Alix arrived with Victoria, having landed to-day at Aberdeen, after having had a frightful passage from Copenhagen. She only remained a short time with me. Drove with Beatrice and Louischen, and went as far as the old Castle of Braemar, where we turned and came back to the Dantzig for tea. Nicky, Alicky, Bertie, Arthur, Thora, and Franzjos joined us there.

Nicky and Alicky drove back with me, and I said a few words to him about Turkey and Armenia, saying his own Ambassador at Constantinople had told Sir P. Currie that he hoped some agreement would be come to with England whilst Nicky was here, as affairs were very critical and some catastrophe was dreaded. Nicky said he quite saw this, and would see what he could do, though it was most difficult. I remarked that, if England and Russia went together, there must be peace, and something ought to be done to bring this about.

[Telegram.] *The Sirdar to Private Secretary, Balmoral.*

KERMA, 26th Sept. 1896.—Her Majesty's gracious message has been communicated to the troops. With my humble duty I beg you will convey the sincere thanks of all here.

Viscount Wolseley to Queen Victoria.

26th September 1896.

MADAM,—Upon my return from a short holiday abroad, I find but one thought in the minds of your Majesty's people, and I venture to add my expression

¹ Duke and Duchess of Fife

of it to the thousands your Majesty has already received.

All your subjects rejoice at the length of reign that has been vouchsafed to your Majesty, and pray earnestly that it may continue for many, many years to come. But stronger even than the personal homage which this wish embodies, there is present in the heart of each and all of your loyal subjects a fervent gratitude to God for having vouchsafed to us for sixty years so good, so wise, so great a ruler. It is good for all of us to pause at this moment and recall the many blessings that your Majesty's long reign has brought us as a nation. Consider it as we may, each from his own standpoint, we all find wisdom, purity of life, and devotion to duty combined at all its varied epochs to set us a bright example. But indeed, your Majesty's broad and national views, upon all matters of common interest, will in history surround your illustrious name with more glory than any length of reign can ever do.

May I venture to add, that any reference to your Majesty's life would be incomplete and, I am sure, valueless in your eyes, that did not include in it the name of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort? All know how much he was your guide and support, and how great was the shadow thrown by his loss upon your Majesty's life. His name is inalienably woven with that of your Majesty in the history of Great Britain.

It is no vain flattery to say that the first Empress of India will be renowned as the best of Queens and the greatest Sovereign who has ever ruled over this Realm. I am, with all honour and respect and loving loyalty, your Majesty's most faithful servant and soldier, WOLSELEY.

Catherine Smith to Queen Victoria.

47 CASTLE STREET, DUMFRIES, 26th September 1896.

DEAR QUEEN,—I write to say how glad I am you have reigned so long, and I hope you may still live for many years to come. I do not think you have

ever been in Dumfries, the place I am writing from. This is my home, and I am nine years old. I have been an invalid for nearly three years, and for the last twelve months have not been able to sit up, so please excuse the writing. I was very much interested in the account of your dolls, as I have quite a number of my own. With much love and all good wishes, believe me, dear Queen, your affectionate friend,
CATHERINE M. SMITH.

2nd October.

DEAR QUEEN,—Thank you very very much for the beautiful photograph of yourself you so kindly sent me, it made me so happy. With love, believe me, dear Queen, your affectionate friend, CATHERINE M. SMITH.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 26th Sept. 1896.—I saw Lord Salisbury who had arrived early this morning. I told him how well disposed Nicky was, and how anxious to speak to him. What Lord Salisbury is most anxious to avoid is anything which could appear as an attack on the Mohammedans, or encouragement of a propaganda against Moslems, which would be most dangerous on account of the enormous number of our Mohammedan subjects. He fears that the only thing which could do any good would be the removal of the Sultan, but a Mohammedan would have to be placed at Constantinople.

28th Sept.—Dear little David¹ with the baby came in at the end of luncheon to say good-bye. David is a most attractive little boy, and so forward and clever. He always tries at luncheon time to pull me up out of my chair, saying, "Get up, Gangan," and then to one of the Indian servants, "Man pull it," which makes us laugh very much.

Saw Lord Salisbury, who had had a long conversation of an hour and a half with Nicky yesterday, and was much struck by his great candour and desire to

¹ The present Prince of Wales.

be on the best terms with us. He had disclaimed in the strongest manner any unfriendly intentions against India.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

BALMORAL CASTLE, 29th Sept. 1896.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully thanks your Majesty for sending him the enclosed telegrams, which he returns.

He did not receive them until after he had seen the Emperor of Russia. The news, if it be authentic, is very terrible. But the Emperor seemed to be distinctly averse, at this stage, to any effort to dethrone the Sultan. He was deeply impressed with the dangers of “interfering in other people’s concerns,” and the fear that if we set up a Sultan, however legitimately selected, the Moslems would treat him as a creature of the Christians, and would refuse to obey him. Probably he had consulted with Monsieur de Staal, who is known to hold those opinions. He is not, however, averse to the plan of going more cautiously to work, and remitting the question as to the changes which are necessary to the Ambassadors, agreeing to an undertaking that, if the Powers agree to any recommendation which the Sultan refuses, his refusal should be overruled by force.

The question of going forward to Khartoum is purely a question of money. There is no Egyptian money available. If it is done, it must be done with English money. Lord Salisbury hopes to have the opinion of his colleagues in the other House of Parliament, but his impression is that the House of Commons would *not* be disposed to authorise the expenditure.

Memorandum by Queen Victoria.

BALMORAL, 2nd Oct. 1896.—I had a very interesting conversation with Nicky, who came to my room before dinner. After speaking to him about the yacht and the advantages or disadvantages of screws, I referred to the idea which Lord Salisbury had enter-

tained of the possibility of deposing the Sultan. I said I understood that Nicky was against this, to which he assented, and added he thought it would be a great risk, and might lead to dangerous complications. But, I remarked, I believed he did not object to what is stated in a letter left by Lord Salisbury before he went, in which he says the following: "The Emperor is not averse to the plan of going more cautiously to work, and remitting the question, as to the changes which are necessary, to the Ambassadors, agreeing to an undertaking that if the Powers agree to any recommendation which the Sultan refuses, his refusal should be overruled by force." Nicky read the letter and said, certainly he agreed to it. I observed I feared the French would not agree, but he answered, "They will follow us."

I then said to him, might I ask what was the cause of this apparent great friendship between Russia and France; did it arise from the Triple Alliance? He replied, "Yes," and that he would tell me how it came. After the Turkish war, the Germans and Austrians concluded an alliance directed against Russia, which was later on joined by Italy. The Russians asked to join this and were refused. Upon this they felt they might be attacked, and, France also being isolated, they came to an agreement and a treaty, which bound them to assist each other when either was attacked, but not to assist one another if they attacked another country. This had been particularly done against the French doing so. But it was a purely military agreement, which extended to nothing else whatever.

Nicky did not seem at all to relish the French, and regretted the visit to Paris, which was unavoidable. He meant to begin the sight-seeing by visiting Notre Dame, and would also receive the Archbishop of Paris in private audience. He is so terribly shocked at the anti-religious spirit shown by the French Government. I then said I understood that what he wished and had mentioned to Lord Salisbury was, the power

of going into the Straits, viz. the Dardanelles, to which he replied, "Yes, in due time"; for I observed Austria and France would dislike this, and it would affect them more than it would us, though we had also our rights which we must maintain. He quite agreed in this, but said it was the only cause of friction between England and Russia. There was no danger or cause for disagreement about India, for that was entirely settled. He did not say anything about Egypt, but seemed to have no objection on that ground. He seemed to regret William's injudicious policy and Germany's inimicality towards us. I said it was so important that Russia and England should go well together, as they were the most powerful Empires, for then the world must be at peace. He was most kind and affectionate and very frank and open.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

2nd Oct. 1896.—Humble duty. The action of German Government¹ is very strange. The doctrine they lay down is that a German man-of-war has unrestricted right to communicate with German Consulate in foreign country if it happens to be a building at the seaside. It is utterly untenable, and seems to indicate a desire to quarrel.

I have remonstrated strongly, but I instructed our Consul some time ago not to carry resistance to the point of violence, and I have renewed that instruction. . . .

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 3rd Oct. 1896.—At twelve went down to below the terrace, near the ballroom, and we were all photographed by Downey by the new cinematograph process, which makes moving pictures by winding off a reel of films. We were walking up and down,

¹ At Zanzibar. See above, pp. 69-71. The difficulty was amicably arranged.

and the children jumping about. Then took a turn in the pony chair, and not far from the garden cottage Nicky and Alicky planted a tree. In the afternoon drove out with them, alas! for the last time, and went to Invercauld and back by the Balloch Bhui. It was rather showery and dark. Took tea with them on coming home. We dined *en famille*, including Daisy and Patsy, at a quarter to nine.

At ten dear Nicky and Alicky left, to my great regret, as I am so fond of them both. Arthur and Louischen went with them, and are going abroad. The girls remain here. Went to the door to see our dear visitors leave. There were again the Highlanders bearing torches, but no pipes.

Queen Victoria to the Emperor of Russia.

[Copy.]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 5th October 1896.

DEAREST NICKY,—You will be surprised to get a letter from me already, but I could not manage to say something to you the day you left. It is, that I am sure you will kindly use your influence and let the French understand that you do not intend to support them in their constant inimicality towards England, which is a cause of much annoyance and difficulty to us, in Egypt amongst other subjects.

I would not have written this had you not told me that the agreement, or alliance, or whatever it is called, was *only* of a military nature. I am (and Lord Salisbury the same) so anxious that we, Russia and England, should understand each other, and be on the most friendly terms, that I am sure you excuse my troubling you so soon. . . . V. R. I.

The Emperor and Empress of Russia to Queen Victoria.
[Telegram.]

CHERBOURG, 5th Oct. 1896.—Arrived after bad rough passage. Fleet escorted us beautifully. So thankful for that honour, and in general for your kindness. Best love, from ALIX, NICKY.

The Marquis of Dufferin to Queen Victoria.

BRITISH EMBASSY, PARIS, 11th Oct. 1896.—. . . The visit was certainly a great success.¹ The attitude of the French people, though cordial and perfectly friendly, was dignified and correct, and free from any of the extravagances which characterised their attitude in welcoming Admiral Avellan.

There have been scarcely any accidents, which is certainly wonderful, considering the millions of people that crowded into the streets, and is very creditable to the precautions taken by the authorities.

The bearing of the Tsar throughout, though somewhat reserved, was graceful and dignified, while nothing could have exceeded the charm of manner of your Majesty's granddaughter. She has won everyone's sympathy by her sweet simplicity and her gentle demeanour. The hearts of both the young couple will have been deeply touched by the evidence of so much good feeling; and the retrospect, in spite of the hard work involved, will always be a delightful souvenir in their lives.

As this is the last letter with which Lord Dufferin will have to trouble your Majesty in an official capacity, he hopes that your Majesty will not think him presuming if he ventures to take this final opportunity of expressing to your Majesty in as earnest terms as he can command the deep and grateful sense he has never ceased to entertain of your Majesty's unfailing goodness and kindness. It is now nearly fifty years since he had the honour of becoming one of your Majesty's servants, and first entering upon his functions on the occasion of your Majesty's visit to Dublin. Some of the happiest moments of his life have been passed under your Majesty's roof; and he has been conscious that, however imperfect may have been his efforts to do his duty towards your Majesty and your Empire, your Majesty has been pleased to regard them with unfailing indulgence, and has rewarded him far

¹ Lord Dufferin had sent the Queen daily accounts of the Imperial visit to Paris.

beyond his merits in the numerous honours which he has received at your Majesty's hands. He is now emboldened to conclude this letter by a fervent prayer that your Majesty may long live in health and happiness to continue the glorious era during which your Majesty has been reigning.¹

[Telegram.] *The Empress of Russia to Queen Victoria.*

NEUES PALAIS, DARMSTADT, 19th Oct. 1896.—Tender thanks telegram. Visit charming Friedrichshof, weather bad, Willy lunched here. Nicky will write. Love, ALIX.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, (?) Oct. 1896.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully thanks your Majesty for the Memorandum on Indian peerages which your Majesty has sent him to read. It is a grave and difficult question. Lord Salisbury quite agrees with Colonel Clarke that the matter cannot be left to the decision of the permanent officials connected with the India Office, who would certainly reject it. It might be well, when people have returned to town, to ask Lord Dufferin, Lord Lansdowne, Lord Northbrook, and perhaps Lord Ripon, Sir H. Fowler, and Lord Kimberley to consult upon the matter, or perhaps it would be better in the first instance to write to them individually. Of course the Cabinet would have to be consulted, which is the reason that in the above list Lord Salisbury has not mentioned Lord G. Hamilton and the Duke of Devonshire. . . .

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 11th Oct. 1896.—A telegram came addressed to Sir A. Bigge, who had gone home, so I opened it. It was from Mr. Gladstone, saying Mrs. Benson desired him to inform me that the Archbishop [of Canterbury] had died suddenly this morning at Hawarden. We are all most dreadfully shocked, for

¹ As it happened, this was not Lord Dufferin's last official letter to the Queen, as he remained at his post in Paris into the next year.

he was such a dear, kind, excellent man, and so charming. I saw so much of him when we were at Florence, and I remember the very pleasant evenings at the Villa Fabbriotti, when he and Mrs. Benson dined with me, and he was so genial and full of interesting conversation.

[*Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to Mr. Gladstone.*

BALMORAL, 11th Oct. 1896.—Your telegram has quite stunned me, and I cannot sufficiently express my sorrow at this terrible loss. I was exceedingly fond of the dear Archbishop, and had the greatest regard for him. Fear this sad event happening in your house must be a great shock to you and Mrs. Gladstone. V. R. I.

Queen Victoria to the Prince of Wales.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 12th Oct. 1896.—Think you should attend dear Archbishop's funeral. If you can't, then Georgie should. His rank and position are so high that one or two, one at least, of the Royal family should attend, either you and Georgie, or one or other of you.

Mrs. Benson to Queen Victoria.

HAWARDEN CASTLE, 12th October 1896.

MADAM,—Your Majesty's kind and gracious and most sympathetic words embolden me to write fully and unreservedly on these last terrible and yet beautiful hours. My dear husband has been so wonderfully well these last weeks since we have been in Ireland. There was a great deal to do through the kindness and warm-heartedness of so many, but it did not seem to do him any harm. He spoke on Friday at a large meeting at Belfast, and even a few words in the evening on the platform, as we were stepping into the boat, to the clergy who came to see him off. We had a calm passage, and slept at Carlisle, and came on here on Saturday evening; he

had a long talk with Mr. Gladstone which interested him deeply, and was perfectly well at night.

We had the Communion together in Hawarden Church at eight o'clock, and all was most beautiful. I drove up with Mrs. Gladstone to morning service, while he walked quietly up with Mrs. Drew and her little girl. Mrs. Drew tells me he was very well and bright. Coming into church he sat in Mr. Gladstone's place, as he was not able to go out that morning. During the Confession, towards the end, I heard a slight sound; and looking up saw that his head had fallen forward on to the book. I went round to him, and people came and lifted him up. He was even then unconscious. They carried him out of church into the Rectory, which is close, and everything was done that could be. There was a doctor in the congregation and a nurse, but he never recovered consciousness, and passed away in a few minutes without pain or struggle of any kind. We can give God thanks that for him there was no suffering, but only a glad passing from life to life.

Your Majesty's touching words about your own personal sorrow go to my heart. He was always, and increasingly, not only passionately loyal, but deeply personally devoted to your Majesty; and therefore your Majesty's affectionate words, if I may be allowed to call them so, are very precious to me.

Two of my sons are already with me, and the others are coming. Nothing could exceed the kindness of the dear people here, and I am thankful to think they have not, Mrs. Drew assures me, suffered from the shock.

The wish has been strongly expressed that he should be buried at Canterbury; and, though nothing is as yet fixed, I hope we shall lay him to rest there on Thursday or Friday.

My children and I rest in the one thought that God, who has called our beloved one home with this overwhelming suddenness, is a God of Love, and that

His Will must be full of life and love ; and we know He will be with us, and with all those who suffer with us, in all strength and consolation. I am, Madam, your Majesty's obedient and devoted servant, MARY BENSON.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 12th Oct. 1896.—There are most touching details in the papers about the dear Archbishop's death. What a beautiful thought that he almost passed away in church, while at his prayers ! The loss to the Church is very great.

Mrs. Gladstone to Queen Victoria.

HAWARDEN CASTLE, CHESTER, 18th October 1896.

DEAR MADAM,—My husband begs me to write after your Majesty's tender thought of us, which we felt came not so much from a loved Queen, but from one who had suffered and did suffer with and for us all. In the midst of the tragedy, there was a great *sense of fitness* in his dying here, close to my husband ; and dear Mrs. Benson is able to feel this, with many other great and ennobling thoughts. And, agony as it has been and is, we must not lose sight of this, that God has dealt so lovingly with us. One of our last talks, on Saturday evening, the dear Archbishop was dwelling with tenderness and admiration on his last interview with your Majesty. He walked up to Church with Mary quite gently, well and happy, and knelt down in my husband's place near me. This is a blessed memory for me, may it help us onward and upward !

Mrs. Benson has just started for London, calm and patient, full of faith and courage. It was indeed a lesson to be with her.

What we feel so very especially is that your Majesty, stunned with grief and the sense of personal loss, should have thought of *us*. I remain, Madam, your Majesty's devoted humble servant, CATHERINE GLADSTONE.

[*Telegram.*] *The Duke of York to Queen Victoria.*

ST. JAMES'S PALACE, 16th Oct. 1896.—Just returned from poor Archbishop's funeral, which was most impressive and beautiful service. I put your cross on coffin myself. Dreadful weather, raining and blowing all day. GEORGE.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 17th Oct. 1896.—Had a very interesting letter from the Bishop of Winchester, who had accompanied the Archbishop's remains from Hawarden to Canterbury. Unfortunately the day of the funeral was very wet, but this did not prevent an immense crowd of Bishops, Clergy, public men and representatives of all sorts of Societies and other bodies from attending. This is the first Archbishop buried in Canterbury Cathedral since Cardinal Pole. The Bishop feels personally the loss very deeply, as the Archbishop had been for years one of his closest personal friends and counsellors. There is no doubt that he is a real national loss, for he was so reliable and competent, and had such a wise and sobering influence.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

14th Oct. 1896.—Lord Salisbury . . . respectfully submits the following observations with respect to the Archbishopric of Canterbury. Unquestionably the greatest man on the English Bench is the Bishop of London [Temple]. He began as a disciple of Dr. Arnold, and is not believed to have modified his views. But his great liberality of thought, his energy, his piety, and his great intellect have won for him the confidence of all parties in the Church. There is only one objection; and that is a serious one: he is seventy-five years of age. But Lord Salisbury is convinced that he will not accept the post unless he feels satisfied that he can do the work. It would be such a slur upon him if he were passed over; and would be resented by many on

account of his great merit; that Lord Salisbury would advise that the translation be offered to him. It is very likely he will not accept it. If he refuses it, the fact that it has been offered to him should be allowed to transpire.

If he declines, the choice becomes difficult. There are only two possible competitors, the Bishop of Winchester and the Bishop of Peterborough [Creighton]; but they run each other very close. The Bishop of Winchester has more the manners of society and the knowledge of men. . . . But his health is bad, and very uncertain; he is young for an Archbishopric (only forty-eight), and he has done nothing to justify in the eyes of the public his rapid advancement, which is in consequence generally attributed to your Majesty's personal predilection for him. The Bishop of Peterborough is a more intellectual man and a much better public speaker and preacher; and he has a great reputation as a learned historian. He is fifty-three, and he has strong health. But his manner is not good; and it will be felt that his experience in Church office has not been sufficient to justify his elevation over so many men who possess that experience more fully. On the whole, though with much misgiving, Lord Salisbury thinks that the Bishop of Winchester's previous career, and his intimacy with Archbishop Tait, give him a moral and social power in the Church, which the Bishop of Peterborough does not yet possess. He is disposed therefore to advise that, after the Bishop of London, the offer be made to Bishop Davidson.

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.*

BALMORAL CASTLE, 16th Oct. 1896.—The Queen received Lord Salisbury's letter this morning, on the very important subject of a successor to the excellent and lamented Archbishop Benson, and she will reply categorically to Lord Salisbury's remarks.

1. *The Bishop of London.* . . . He is very clever, very worthy, but . . . his age is far too advanced

to undertake such an arduous post ; and his eyesight is most defective, he can hardly see anything below him.

2. *The Bishop of Peterborough.* He is very able, very agreeable, with a good presence, and is an excellent preacher. But . . . it would hardly do to place him above all the other Bishops. . . .

3. *The Bishop of Winchester.* He is very able, a very good preacher, with an immense knowledge of all the members of the Church, very liberal-minded and tolerant in religion, as the two preceding Bishops also are. He has all the experience which his great intimacy with Archbishops Tait and Benson gives him. When the Queen was so anxious that he should be appointed to the see of Winchester (when he was appointed to the see of Rochester, the hard work of which nearly killed him) the late Archbishop most urgently desired that he should go then to Winchester, for which see he thought him eminently fitted. The Bishop of Winchester's health has become very much stronger since he left London, and in fact he says he never was so well as now ; his age, if he be otherwise fit, the Queen can really not think should militate against his appointment to the high post of Archbishop. For others to say that it is the Queen's partiality which has obtained him his promotions is extremely wrong and unjust. It is in fact quite the reverse. The Queen most unwillingly consented to his leaving Windsor, which Lord Salisbury himself pressed so very much.

When Archbishop Tait died, Mr. Gladstone said the choice lay between the then Bishop of Winchester, Dr. Harold Browne, and the Bishop of Truro, Dr. Benson. It was thought the former was too old and in too bad health to undertake the office, but it was offered to him almost on the understanding that he would not accept it.¹ Perhaps if Lord Salisbury thinks it absolutely necessary to offer the Primacy to the Bishop of London, it should be done in [some] such a

¹ See Second Series, vol. iii, pp. 371, 375-8, 381-2.

way. . . . But she has no objection to its being known that the offer was made. The Queen feels rather strongly the imputation of the Bishop of Winchester owing his preferments to her partiality, as she thinks all her Ministers must know that she has never pressed the appointment of anyone, unless she was quite sure they were fitted for it.

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

COLONIAL OFFICE, 19th Oct. 1896.—Mr. Chamberlain . . . begs to thank your Majesty for your gracious letter. He is glad to say that neither Mrs. Chamberlain nor himself suffered any ill effects from their recent voyage, or from the storm of the 8th inst. in the Channel, which was the worst that he has ever encountered.

Before leaving the United States, Mr. Chamberlain had another interview with Mr. Olney, and found him in a much more friendly disposition than on the first occasion. Several suggestions for a settlement of the boundary dispute were discussed, and Mr. Chamberlain hopes that these informal negotiations may lead to an agreement in regard to the question which will be mutually satisfactory to the two countries.

Since his return Mr. Chamberlain has made careful enquiries into the state of things at present existing in Matabeleland, with special reference to the proposals for diminishing the number of troops in that territory. The last information received points to the early and complete collapse of the insurrection, but he is not inclined to rely absolutely on these reports, as it is notoriously difficult to ascertain with certainty the intentions of the natives. But, even if the insurrection continues, it appears to be impossible to conduct offensive operations during the rainy season, and the troops must therefore go into quarters.

Sir F. Carrington¹ has given a positive opinion that, under these circumstances, it will be sufficient for

¹ Who had larger experience of African warfare.

defensive purposes to retain a force of 800 men in Matabeleland, and that there will be no risk to the Imperial troops in consequence of this reduction of force. He agrees with Lord Grey¹ that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to feed and supply a larger force without trenching seriously on the stores required for the civil population. He therefore recommends an immediate reduction, and Mr. Chamberlain is of opinion that this recommendation, coming from the experienced military officer in command on the spot, should be approved.

He proposes, however, to consult Lord Salisbury and the Secretary-of-State for War before giving a final reply, and he hopes that your Majesty will approve of this decision.

Queen Victoria to Mr. Chamberlain.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 21st Oct. 1896.—Many thanks for your letter. Think Lord Wolseley ought to be consulted on these as on all military matters, as well as Lord Salisbury and the Secretary for War. The fighting still goes on.

[*Telegram.*] *Bishop Davidson to Queen Victoria.*

ADDINGTON PARK, CROYDON, 21st Oct. 1896.—I am increasingly convinced that, in the opinion of those best qualified to judge, the senior name first mentioned in my long letter² posted to your Majesty on Sunday is the one which would alone command real confidence at this juncture and serve best interests of Church and Nation. I can if desired write fully respecting natural objections against advanced age, but shrink from

¹ The 4th Earl, formerly Mr. Albert Grey, M.P., Administrator of Rhodesia; Governor-General of Canada, 1904-1911.

² In that letter, dated 18th October, Dr. Davidson wrote: "Foremost beyond question both in power and in influence stands the Bishop of London. His largeness of sympathy and truly liberal views outweigh, for those who know him, all faults of manner; and, if it be possible to secure him for the post for a time, it would in my opinion be well for the Church. But he is seventy-five years old, and his eyesight is failing."

troubling your Majesty needlessly. BISHOP OF WINCHESTER.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.
[Cypher Telegram.]

21st Oct. 1896.—Since writing yesterday, am anxious to express that, if it is thought most advisable after all to offer the Primacy to the Bishop of London, the Queen will not object, though she retains her personal opinion as to his fitness.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

22nd Oct. 1896.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully thanks your Majesty for your most gracious telegram with respect to the Archbishopric.

Lord Salisbury has a great admiration for the intellect and character of the Bishop of Winchester; but he has derived it, as your Majesty probably has, from conversations with him. To the public generally, who have not this opportunity for knowing his merits, his rapid advancement is a cause of some perplexity. He was not distinguished at the University (he only took a third class); he has had no important pastoral cure; and he has not published any work of note except the biography of his father-in-law; his speaking and preaching, though good, are not of unusual merit; he is the youngest of all the Bishops on the English Bench. If he were now made at once Archbishop of Canterbury, he will be thought to have gained the post entirely by favour; and such a suspicion, though very unjust, will detract most seriously from his authority and usefulness. If the Bishop of London should decline, perhaps there is no other alternative. But it would in Lord Salisbury's judgment be far better that the Bishop of London should hold the office for a few years. At the expiration of that time, Bishop Davidson, having served his time in the see of Winchester, will be of a suitable age, and will be able to do great service to the Church.

Lord Salisbury respectfully returns the letter of

the Bishop of Ripon. He encloses one from the Archbishop of York, urging the appointment of the Bishop of Peterborough; and he has had a message from H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in the same sense. But the objections to that appointment at present seem to be too strong.

Lord Salisbury has written to the Bishop of London.

[*Copy.*] *Bishop Temple to the Marquis of Salisbury.*

FULHAM PALACE, 23rd October 1896.

MY DEAR LORD SALISBURY,—I am very conscious of many deficiencies in my qualifications for such a post as that of Archbishop of Canterbury. But I believe nevertheless that I could do the Church good service in that capacity, and I do not feel that I have any right to refuse the call which her Majesty has made upon me. I will do my best to carry on the work which the late Archbishop, my most intimate friend for forty years, has been doing with such marked success.

I beg of you to submit to the Queen, with my sincerest loyalty, my acceptance of her Majesty's offer. Believe me, yours very truly, F. LONDON.

[*Telegram.*] *Bishop Davidson to Queen Victoria.*

FARNHAM, 23rd Oct. 1896.—I am more thankful than I can express. It is an unspeakable blessing. Most grateful to your Majesty for message. WINTON.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegrams.*]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 23rd Oct. 1896.—Am very much surprised and I must say disappointed at the Bishop of London's acceptance. But the Church will most likely approve it. I had a second letter from the Bishop of Winchester yesterday, hoping the Bishop of London would accept, if even only for a year. The personality seems to me very unsuited to the position.

24th Oct.—Thanks for your letter received this

morning. I quite understand reasons, and agree it is best so.

[*Copy.*] *Queen Victoria to Bishop Davidson.*

BALMORAL CASTLE, [? 24th Oct.]—I have three very kind and interesting letters to thank you for.

You will perhaps have guessed what I wished for the Primacy? It was *yourself*, and for the following reasons: My opinion is that you possessed the necessary qualities for that important post, and above all because your great intimacy with the two last great Primates enabled you to know their views and their work. In fact, I think *their* mantle has fallen upon you.

Lord Salisbury, though speaking of you in the highest terms, says that you are the youngest of the Bishops, and you have had rapid preferment, and that it would be an advantage to you if the Bishop of London became Archbishop for a short while; my wishes would then be accomplished. I do not like the choice at all, and think the Bishop of London's presence eminently *unsuited* to the post.

There comes the choice for the Bishop of London, quite as important a post! The Archbishop of York and the Prince of Wales were very anxious that the Bishop of Peterborough should be the Primate. Perhaps that would not have done, though it might for London. . . .

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 27th Oct. 1896.—I have received your letter.¹ London should not be offered to the Bishop of Winchester, as his health would not allow of his doing so. I would write him.

The Bishop of Peterborough would do admirably

¹ Lord Salisbury had recommended Dr. Davidson for London in the first place; but, if he declined, then Dr. Creighton, Bishop of Peterborough; and Mr. Glyn, the Vicar of Kensington, to be Bishop of Peterborough.

for it, and I should gladly see Mr. Glyn promoted to a Bishopric.

Queen Victoria to Bishop Davidson.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 29th Oct. 1896.—Lord Salisbury wished for you to go to London, but feared for your health. I said it must not be offered to you, as it would be utter ruin to your health. I have approved Peterborough, the only other proposed. Mr. Glyn to be offered Peterborough.¹

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

29th Oct. 1896.—Lord Salisbury . . . has spoken to M. de Staal, and the Ambassador agrees with Lord Salisbury in entirely failing to remember any question asked of the British Government by the Prince Lobanoff on the subject of the Suez Canal. Both were wholly unable to conjecture what it was to which Prince Lobanoff was alluding; and were of opinion that, in thinking he had addressed such a question to the British Government, the Prince's memory had failed him.

The Emperor's answer to your Majesty's observations about Egypt is unfortunate. His ground for objecting to our presence in Egypt is not reasonable. What will always give us an influence over the canal is our fleet, not the slender force which we could send against it from Cairo. This ground for Russia's opposition to our stay in Egypt was never advanced before the time of Prince Lobanoff. Whether the Emperor has entirely inherited Prince Lobanoff's view may be doubted. Even if he differed from it, he would probably wish to postpone for the present any avowal of that difference—for appearance' sake, in order not to exhibit a break in Russian policy—

¹ In reply Bishop Davidson wrote on 1st November of his "sense of the thoughtful kindness and the far too generous estimate of himself" shown by the Queen. He added: "I should not in any circumstances feel it to be right at present, when I am, thank God, perfectly strong and well, to return to the London work, especially the night-work, which was formerly too much for my strength."

and also because an assent to our staying in Egypt might be something for him to offer, whenever the ownership of the Straits may come under discussion.

Lord Salisbury certainly understood the Emperor to say he had no objection to our remaining in Egypt. But he stopped suddenly and turned the conversation, as though he felt he was committing an imprudence.

Bishop Creighton to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[Copy.] THE PALACE, PETERBOROUGH, 30th October 1896.

MY DEAR LORD,—It is with a very deep sense of responsibility that I place myself at her Majesty's disposal to serve the great diocese of London. In such a matter I do not see that there is any place for personal preference, or that it is possible to do otherwise than obey.

I would thank your Lordship very warmly for the terms in which you have conveyed to me a proposal, which I am bound to regard as conveying a very high distinction, and for the confidence which it betokens. I am deeply sensible of the greatness of the work to which you have called me, and of its importance. God help me!

I would beg you to convey to her Majesty the assurance of my loyal devotion and of my gratitude for this mark of her favour. Believe me to be, yours very truly, M. PETRIBURG.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

5th Nov. 1896.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully submits to your Majesty that a Cabinet Council was held to-day.

The principal business transacted was the approval of the last proposal made by Mr. Olney for the settlement of the Venezuela controversy. The question was how to define "settled districts," which we maintain ought not to be put in peril of alienation from your Majesty's dominion by reference of their nationality to an arbitrator. At last, after much informal discussion, Mr. Olney proposes that the same

rule of prescription shall protect the subjects of the Empire against the claims of a neighbouring State as would protect them in their private capacity against the claims of a neighbouring landowner; and to this principle the Cabinet resolved to agree. . . .

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 6th Nov. 1896.—There seems to be immense relief at the election of President McKinley, as so many people who have money in America would have lost considerably had the other candidate¹ been elected, who was a Bimetallist.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 16th Nov.—After tea saw good kind Mrs. Benson, the dear Archbishop's widow, and she sat with me some time, telling me of his beautiful end. She praised Bishop Temple, and said he had been her husband's true friend for forty years, that he was very kind and good, though he had perhaps a certain roughness of manner. Mrs. Benson shares my wish that Bishop Davidson could have been appointed to the Primacy, as he had the traditions of the two Archbishops, but perhaps, on account of his being so much younger, it is better that Bishop Temple should succeed now. On a future occasion it would surely be Bishop Davidson, if his life should be spared. Cecilia Downe, who has succeeded Louisa A[ntrim], the Breadalbanes, Lord Kintore, Sir Herbert Kitchener, Sir A. Bigge, Minnie C[ochrane], and Colonel Clerk dined.

Sir Herbert Kitchener is a striking, energetic-looking man, with rather a firm expression, but very pleasing to talk to. He brought me back very interesting trophies, which were placed on a table in the corridor. The drum is beaten to rally or alarm the troops. The spear's head is very formidable, and the inscription on the sword, in English, is most curious, showing clearly that it was used in the Crusades. There are two flags, the smaller one of which was flying on the tower of Dongola, and was recognised by Slatin when they captured the place. There are some

¹ Mr. Bryan.

words of the Koran inscribed on them. Sir H. Kitchener told me that eight hundred of the dervishes came over to him and fought against their countrymen. At Dongola it was the first time they had fled without fighting. Sir H. Kitchener said it was quite true that they had found a number of quite little children, even babies, strewn on the ground near Dongola, having been dropped by the women in their flight.

23rd Nov.—After tea went to the Red drawing-room, where so-called “animated pictures” were shown off, including the groups taken in September at Balmoral. It is a very wonderful process, representing people, their movements and actions, as if they were alive.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

[? Nov.] 1896.—Humble duty. I hope to meet the Russian Ambassador at Sandringham to-day, and I will try to ascertain the meaning of apparent contradiction.

I am very apprehensive of seeming to quote against the Emperor of Russia what he has said to your Majesty or others in this country, lest he should resent it, but M. de Staal is a very safe man.

Mr. Schomberg McDonnell to Sir Arthur Bigge.

Private.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 24th November 1896.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—I have shown your letter about the Queen visiting St. Paul's Cathedral¹ to Lord Salisbury. He did not, however, make any remark upon it. If the idea assumes a more definite form, it would be as well to square the Dean, as he, not the Bishop, has, I believe, the control of the Church.

I fear you would find that the idea of bringing horses into the building would shock the people; why, however, should they not be taken out and H.M. drawn in procession up the aisle? It would be a

¹ For the Jubilee in 1897.

magnificent spectacle, and would afford the Queen the minimum of discomfort. Yours very truly, SCHOMBERG K. McDONNELL.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 25th Nov. 1896.—After tea received the Secretary of the Royal Academy, and signed and approved the resolution appointing Mr. Poynter President. The latter then came in, and I knighted and gave him the badge. It is very sad to think that much about this time last year I still saw poor Lord Leighton, who died towards the end of January, and that his successor,¹ whom I received in the spring, then already suffering from some serious malady, died in August.

Mr. Schomberg McDonnell to Sir Arthur Bigge.

Private.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 27th November 1896.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—Your idea of an outdoor *Te Deum* sounds splendid. But I fear the want of space would be a great difficulty. However all, as you say, depends upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer. . . . Yours very truly, SCHOMBERG K. McDONNELL.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 28th Nov. 1896.—Had some conversation after dinner with the Bishop,² who is very clever and agreeable, and so sensible and large-minded. He spoke of the Russians and Russia with great interest, and said that their Church was very symbolical and simple, so that it could be easily understood. He has delivered a lecture on national character, which he wishes to send me.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

WINDSOR CASTLE, 28th Nov. 1896.—Dr. Jameson is very ill, and has suffered severely from the confine-

¹ Sir John Millais.

² Creighton of Peterborough, who had just been designated for the see of London. He had been present at the Coronation ceremonies in Moscow in the autumn



Lt Col Sir Arthur Bigge, K.C.B.
1899

Afterwards Lord Stamfordham, PC, GCB, GCMG, GCVO

ment to prison. He [ought] surely to be released on medical grounds.

Every week about, I get submissions for revisions, for every sort of crime, of days and weeks, and none of these sentences on medical grounds.

Sir Matthew Ridley to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

29th Nov. 1896.—Humble duty. Dr. Jameson informed this evening that he will be released as soon as it is safe to move him.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 30th Nov. 1896.—Had a long talk with Mr. Chamberlain, who hoped that the fighting in South Africa was over, though there might still be some trouble from other tribes. The Chief Khama, who was here last year, has been very useful, but had suffered very much. The most serious difficulty now was the cattle disease which could not be stopped.

Mr. Chamberlain said he was convinced Mr. Rhodes had had nothing to do with the unfortunate raid, but had sympathised very much with the poor people at Johannesburg, who had suffered a good deal. Dr. Jameson had been prepared to act, but had received no orders to do so, and even when advancing of his own accord, unsupported by those he expected would join him, he had been told to come back, which he unfortunately did not do.

5th Dec.—Emily Ampthill, who has succeeded Cecilia D[owne], Victoria G[rant], Ethel C[adogan], Lord Rosebery, Vice-Admiral Sir John Fisher, the Dean of Canterbury, and Sir A. Bigge dined. Lord Rosebery was looking very well and was extremely kind and pleasant. I praised his speech and his action in resigning the leadership of his party.¹ He quite agreed in what was being done about Egypt, and was anxious

¹ See Introductory Note to this chapter.

we should go to Khartoum to wipe out the stain on England's character.

9th Dec.—Emily A[mphill], Ethel C., Mr. and Mrs. Curzon, Mr. Balfour, Lord Bridport, Sir A. Bigge, and Colonel Davidson dined. Mrs. Curzon, who is an American from Washington, is very handsome and ladylike. Mr. Balfour gave a good account of things in general and of the probable arrangement of Egyptian money affairs, which he said were in fact favourable to us, and he hoped that very early in the summer an advance would be made farther south. He thought Lord Salisbury very well, but not so Lady Salisbury. Had some long conversation also with Mr. Curzon,¹ who is clever and agreeable.

15th Dec.—Before dinner I saw Lord Salisbury. We talked of most things and important questions; amongst others we discussed the Honours to be given at the New Year, which include a peerage for Sir J. Lister. He attended me at Balmoral in 1871, and is the head of the Royal Society and College of Surgeons. He is famous for having discovered the antiseptic treatment of wounds. Lord Salisbury explained that he wished to bring into the House of Lords men of science and art. I quite agreed with his view.

16th Dec.—Saw Dr. Felix Semon about my throat, which has given me a little trouble of late.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 16th December 1896.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—The Queen might like to know that in compliance with her commands I have intimated to the Ambassadors of Germany and Austria that no crowned heads will be asked to the 20th of June.

I gave a similar instruction to the Siamese Minister, who had announced to me that his King was coming. Believe me, yours very truly, SALISBURY.

¹ Afterwards Viceroy of India and ultimately Marquis Curzon of Kedleston, K.G.

The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.

18th December 1896.

DEAREST GRANDMAMA,—My wishes for Xmas and for the New Year which is approaching are if possible more fervent than usual, as the closing year has been one of sorrow, caused by the loss of one so beloved, and by the death of friends, whereas the New Year will be the sixtieth of a reign as marvellous for its length as it has been a blessing to the people, who have the privilege of living under the mild sway of your kind sceptre. May Providence let you enjoy this Xmas and the New Year in peace and happiness, surrounded by those you love and who adore you; may Heaven shield your precious health and life from all evil, for the welfare of your people, and for the maintenance of the peace of the world! . . .

Come what may, I shall always be glad to assist anybody for the preservation of "Peace and Goodwill among men."

With my sincerest and warmest wishes for you in 1897 I with much love and respect kiss your hands and remain, Ever your most devoted and dutiful Grandson, WILLIAM I. R.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 20th Dec. 1896.—There has come a very satisfactory telegram, stating that Nicky had sent a special message to the Sultan, warning him in the strongest terms to do what the Powers advised, else coercive measures would have to be employed. This sounds very encouraging.

Lord George Hamilton to Queen Victoria.

COATES CASTLE, PULBOROUGH, 27th Dec. 1896.—
. . . In the list of honours submitted to the Queen by the Secretary of State for India, five names, all British, were submitted for the order of the Star of India; for the Empire of India ten names, four of which were those of natives of India.

The Prime Minister has informed Lord George

that the Queen now desires that the additions to the Star of India should include natives of India, and Lord George has telegraphed to the Viceroy of India to ask for fresh names.

A reply may be expected at once, but Lord George fears that the submission will have to be sent to and approved by her Majesty through the telegraph if the new names are to be included in the *Gazette* of 31st December, 1896.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 30th Dec. 1896.—The new Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Temple) did homage, the Bishop of Winchester attending as Clerk of the Closet, and Sir Matthew Ridley administered the oath. Afterwards the Archbishop had an audience, and then I went upstairs. Jane C[hurchill], Evelyn M[oores], the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Winchester, Sir Matthew White Ridley, and Lord E. Clinton dined. The Archbishop sat near me, and he certainly is very clever and has much to say.

[Telegram.] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

NEUES PALAIS, 31st Dec. 1896.—Sincerely do I mourn with you and the Royal Navy the death of the Veteran of our service, Sir Alex Milne. I have ordered Vice-Admiral Koester, in command of the Baltic Station, to represent me at the funeral of the venerable old officer whose colleague to have been I feel most proud. WILLIAM I. R.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 31st Dec. 1896.—This is the last day of the year which has brought us such sorrow and destroyed the whole happiness of my precious child, who bears her heavy burden with so much courage and resignation. But I suffer terribly for her. In the midst of our trials I cannot, however, forget that there are great mercies.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE TO CHAPTER XIII

ON 20th June, 1897, Queen Victoria completed the sixtieth year of her reign, and this second, or Diamond, Jubilee was celebrated throughout her Empire with not less enthusiasm than the first Jubilee, and with a still deeper personal feeling. The day happened to be a Sunday; and on that morning, in places of worship everywhere throughout her realm, at home and overseas, services of Thanksgiving were held—the Queen herself worshipping, surrounded by her family, in St. George's Chapel at Windsor. On the following Tuesday, the 22nd, welcomed by a continuous roar of cheers from her enthusiastic people, she drove in State for three hours through the thronged and gaily decorated streets of London; going from Buckingham Palace to the City by the famous thoroughfares north of the river, and returning through districts occupied by her poorer subjects south of the river; pausing half-way at the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral, where, as she sat in her carriage, a short service was held, and the *Te Deum* sung, in the open air. There were no kings this time in the wonderful procession which escorted her Majesty; but there was a significant Imperial representation of every race or nation acknowledging the Queen's supremacy—especially Colonial and Indian troops in considerable number and picturesque variety, and the Prime Ministers of all the self-governing Colonies, headed by the Premier of the Dominion of Canada.

The assemblage of these Prime Ministers was due to the growth, both at home and throughout her Majesty's dominions, of inter-Imperial sentiment, of a desire for closer Imperial relations. Mr. Chamberlain's administration at the Colonial Office was deeply penetrated with this spirit. At his instance all the Prime Ministers were sworn in as Privy Councillors, and several of them were knighted. He presided over this first Imperial Conference, and directed the attention of its members to various matters of common interest, commercial relations, imperial defence, postal and cable communications, immigration of aliens, and in particular the question of closer political union; offering in all cases the initiative to the Colonies, but adding that the Mother Country would go half-way to meet them. His own suggestion, as regards political union, was to begin with the formation of a Great Council of the Empire. But, though several Empire Ministers advocated tentative advances in this direction, the Australians

thought such ideas of doubtful wisdom, though the whole Conference adopted a resolution in favour of the federal union of Colonies geographically united. In regard to commercial relations, the "preference" lead given by Canada was taken up. The Conference asked that the British Government should denounce all treaties (*e.g.* those with Germany and Belgium) which hampered such relations—which was promptly done; and the Premiers resolved to consult with their colleagues on their return home on the question of giving preference to the products of the United Kingdom. Finally, the Conference declared in favour of periodical Imperial Conferences for the future.

While Sir Wilfrid Laurier was in England, the preferential tariff bill was passing through the Legislature at Ottawa; but interest in Canada was mainly fixed on the great discoveries of gold in the Klondyke valley of the Yukon district on the border of Alaska. In Australia the year was largely occupied by Conventions and Conferences on Federation; but progress was not rapid. South African affairs still occupied the public eye. The House of Commons Committee on the Jameson Raid, after examining at length Mr. Rhodes, Dr. Jameson, and many other witnesses, pronounced in their report in July a severe condemnation of the raid, and of the conduct of Mr. Rhodes and of several of the officials of the Chartered Company under him who, whether cognisant or not of the actual raid, avowedly conspired to assist insurrection in the Transvaal by means of an invasion of British forces from British territory. But the Committee absolved the Secretary of State, the High Commissioner of South Africa, the Colonial Office, and the Directors of the Company as a Board, of any knowledge or complicity. The Government curtailed the powers of the Company, so as to prevent the possibility of any such action in future. Parliament, except for Mr. Labouchere and the Radicals, showed no disposition to go farther. While the enquiry was in progress, the Transvaal Government presented its bill for damages sustained through the raid, claiming £877,938 for material damage, and £1,000,000 for "moral and intellectual damage"; and President Kruger visited President Steyn at Bloemfontein in March, and was believed to have arranged with him for joint action between the two Dutch States in case of attack. Sir Alfred Milner was appointed Governor of Cape Colony and High Commissioner for South Africa.

The Indian Princes were little represented at this Jubilee,

as they were unfortunately busily engaged in coping, in their own States, with the plague and famine with which India was this year afflicted. To these misfortunes was added great unrest on the North-west frontier, involving punitive expeditions. In the Soudan the year was mainly occupied in pushing on the desert railway and accumulating stores; but the advanced position was improved by the occupation of Abu Hamed (after a stiff fight) and of Berber; and Ministers emphasised in the debates on the Address in both Houses that the occupation of Khartoum sooner or later was the aim of the expedition.

In his speech in the House of Lords Lord Salisbury made the remarkable confession that in our Eastern policy we had "staked our money on the wrong horse," and that it would have been wiser in 1853 to accept the proposals of the Emperor Nicholas than to adopt the policy which led to the Crimean War. As we had alienated Russia, the best course was to work through the Powers in concert, and if necessary to pledge them to use force to coerce the Sultan. In carrying out his policy Lord Salisbury had a difficult year, as the Kaiser was entirely against the coercion of the Sultan and the Tsar little disposed to it. In 1897 Crete and Greece were the trouble rather than Armenia. The island, largely Greek in population, had long been a part of the Turkish Empire. Owing to Turkish misgovernment, the European Powers, whose fleets lay at anchor there, would not allow further Turkish forces to be sent; and early in the year the local authorities were powerless, and there was a riot of murder and pillage on the part both of Mohammedans and of Christians. The Greeks sent troops under Colonel Vassos to help the Greek insurgents who demanded union with Greece. The admirals landed men to guard the towns and bombarded insurgents who attacked them; and both Greece and Turkey prepared for war on the Thessalian frontier. Finally, mainly on Lord Salisbury's proposal, the Powers decided that, while Crete could not be annexed to Greece, an absolutely effective autonomy should be established there; and they directed Greece to remove her troops from the island. While Turkey accepted Cretan autonomy, Greece refused to remove her troops. In the war which followed in April, the Turks were speedily successful, having occupied by the beginning of May Thessaly and Epirus, while Greece was appealing to the Powers to save her. She was compelled to accept the autonomy of Crete and order her troops to leave the island before even

obtaining an armistice ; and by the peace, though Thessaly and Epirus were restored to her, she had to pay £T4,000,000 indemnity to Turkey. Public opinion in England was throughout strongly sympathetic with Greece.

Russia again loomed large in Europe, M. Mouravieff showing himself a capable Foreign Minister. The Tsar entertained at St. Petersburg in August the Kaiser, who said that their two nations desired peace ; and in September President Faure, during whose visit the official talk was of *nations alliées*. Austria also, under Count Goluchowsky, aligned herself rather with Russia than with England. France, in her domestic politics, was torn in two by the Dreyfus case. His family and friends succeeded in producing sufficient evidence to impugn seriously the justice of his condemnation for treason in 1894 by a military tribunal ; but the Government and the majority of the nation relied on the *chose jugée*. In Germany, Count von Bülow was appointed Foreign Minister, and steps were taken to strengthen the Navy. On the ground of the murder of two German missionaries, a spectacular naval expedition, under the command of Prince Henry of Prussia, was sent to China, and on 3rd December occupied the city and fort of Kiao-chau. Whereupon on 18th December a Russian squadron steamed into Port Arthur "to pass the winter there" ; and on the 27th it was announced that Russia had occupied the harbour of Kinchau, on the same peninsula a short distance away. In Spain Señor Canovas, the Premier, was assassinated, and eventually Señor Sagasta became Premier. General Weyler failed, as Marshal Campos had failed, to subdue the Cuban insurrection ; General Blanco was now sent with instructions to bring about a settlement. The United States became increasingly impatient, and President McKinley uttered an impressive warning. A general treaty of arbitration, which had been negotiated between the United States and Great Britain, was rejected by the Senate.

In domestic politics Mr. Balfour succeeded in passing into law, without amendment and by enormous majorities, a limited Education Bill to meet the needs of Voluntary Schools, in spite of prolonged and impassioned opposition by Mr. Lloyd George and others ; and carried also an important Employers' Liability Bill, part of Mr. Chamberlain's social programme. The Navy having already been strengthened, the strengthening of the Army was begun this year.

CHAPTER XIII

1897

Queen Victoria to the Earl of Elgin.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

OSBORNE, 1st Jan. 1897.—The account of the Plague in Bombay seems serious. Are the physicians unable to check it? Would not some more European ones be useful? It seems such a horrible disease. The accounts of the famine in parts sound very distressing.

The Earl of Elgin to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

2nd Jan. 1897.—. . . We have given Bombay Government every assistance, including services of a European specialist. Director-General of Medical Service is proceeding to Bombay to confer with local officer. Your Majesty may rely on every effort being made to meet distress.

Numbers to be relieved must for the present increase, though rain, if continued, will shorten time of pressure.

The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.

POTSDAM, 2nd January 1897.

DEAREST GRANDMAMA,—This very moment your splendid photograph was handed to me, and is before me on my writing table. I think it is a first-rate likeness, and to me the more valuable, as it represents you as you are in the sixtieth year of your prosperous and glorious reign. I am deeply thankful for this new, kind *Ueberraschung*, which has brought me such unexpected pleasure.

Mama has arrived for her stay at Berlin, looking remarkably well and in excellent spirits, having three baby grandchildren to look after. . . .

Your kind proposal to send Uncle Arthur for the unveiling of Grandpapa's statue on the anniversary of his hundredth birthday will give great pleasure here everywhere, and I look forward to his visit with joy. I hope you will allow the Colonel and some of the officers of my Dragoons to accompany him.

Have you any plans or wishes about our coming or not coming for your Jubilee, and whether some of our children are to come with us or not? I venture to ask so as to be able to arrange for the summer plans and to know exactly what your wishes are. With my sincerest thanks and very best love, I most respectfully remain, ever your most dutiful and devoted Grandson, WILLIAM I. R.

Viscount Wolseley to Sir Arthur Bigge.

BATH, 7th January 1897.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—. . . I am writing to Lord Lansdowne to-day, telling him the Queen's wishes¹ about the Guards. I shall send you, when I return to London on Monday, the letters from all three of the Generals Commanding regiments of Guards conveying to me their approval of the scheme : viz. from H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, and Sir Fredk. Stephenson. Also a letter written in a similar spirit from Lord Methuen, now commanding the Home District.

The boon to the Guards of giving them these two extra battalions is so great, that we certainly ought not to let the opportunity slip of securing it, even though a few respectable old gentlemen in the Guards Club would have us reject it. I fear the Queen's army would be a curious institution if they were allowed to manage it according to *their* notions!

We are never again likely to have such good

¹ For these, see the following letter.

terms offered, and I have no hesitation in recommending them to be closed with. It will be for the Queen to settle all minor details. . . .

If I thought it would in any way injure the Guards I would not recommend this proposal to the Queen. But speaking as a soldier, I know that it must be beneficial to the Guards to have a Brigade under a Guards Brigadier in the Mediterranean. It will give to its officers and men a chance of active service that they have never had before. If it became known in the Army that this addition to the Army was prevented because a certain set of Guards' officers objected to all foreign service in peace, it would be in future practically impossible to give them a share in all our little wars as it has *always* been my endeavour to do, and as I succeeded in doing in 1882, 1885, and even lately in Ashanti. I do not mind telling you that it was I who insisted upon a Brigade of Foot Guards being sent to Egypt with me in 1882, and that even the Duke of Cambridge did not approve of my taking the Life Guards there. I always preach to the Line that the Guards ought to be the model on which they should form themselves, but if, to please a few gentlemen (who *have been*) in the Guards, this scheme were now abandoned, it would be difficult to persuade any right-minded soldier that my sermon was a good one. Believe me to be, very sincerely yours, WOLSELEY.

Sir Arthur Bigge to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

[Copy.]

OSBORNE, 8th January 1897.

MY DEAR LORD LANSDOWNE,— . . . The Queen only wishes me to make it quite clear that she approves of the scheme [about the Guards] on the understanding that the present standard of the Guards is maintained, both in physique and as regards the class from which they are recruited, and that the battalions, both at home and abroad, are kept up to their full strength. H.M. is very glad to know that the Gibraltar brigade will be commanded by a Guardsman, and that the term of service will be for a year.

With the objections urged to Gibraltar as a "penal settlement," a "prison," etc., that the officers of the Guards cannot go abroad, that they have properties to manage and other responsibilities which necessitate their remaining at home, and that the present class of officer will not in the future go into the Brigade under the new system, H.M. cannot sympathise. Yours very truly, A. B.

Sir Fleetwood Edwards to Queen Victoria.

9th Jan. 1897.—Humbly submitted by Sir Fleetwood Edwards. He has thanked the Lord Mayor for his telegram, and informed him that your Majesty wishes to contribute £500; and, in accordance with this telegram from Lord George Hamilton, Sir Fleetwood has also telegraphed to the Viceroy that your Majesty will be Patron of the Relief Fund.

The Mayor of Coventry to Sir Arthur Bigge.

GREYLANDS, COVENTRY, 11th January 1897.

DEAR SIR,—Recalling the events of ten years ago, when her Majesty graciously accepted a number of gifts from her subjects, I am anxious to ascertain whether I should be permitted, in connection with the celebration of next summer, to present to her Majesty, in my capacity as Mayor of Coventry, specimens of the products of the three principal industries of the City, viz. a ribbon, a watch, and a bicycle.

In order to avoid trade jealousies and also to obviate any danger of the presentation being made the occasion for advertising, I propose to keep the matter in my own hands, without consultation with any committee, and to select manufacturers of the highest reputation.

I would not give these manufacturers more than general instructions as to size, design, and style, *e.g.* whether the watch should be a hunter or open face, whether it should be enamelled with the Royal Arms or with some other design, whether the bicycle should be a lady's or a gentleman's and so on. The design

of the ribbon I should propose to submit for approval. But subject to such instructions as I have mentioned, I should propose to leave the execution entirely to the manufacturers, relying on their taste and skill as well as their zeal.

My object in writing to you is to ask if you would kindly ascertain if her Majesty would be likely to deign to accept such a gift at my hands, and if so, I would proceed to get out designs for her Majesty's selection ?

If you would advise that I write a letter which you could show to her Majesty, I should be very glad of a hint to that effect. I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,
ALBERT S. TOMSON, Mayor.

The Duke of Connaught to Sir Arthur Bigge.

BAGSHOT PARK, SURREY, 11th January 1897.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—I am delighted to hear from your letter that on second thoughts the Queen agrees to an open-air *Te Deum* in front of St. Paul's. I always hoped that after further consideration she would do so. . . .

I am afraid that the increase of the Guards is a very vexed question. I find that, combined with the sending out of three battalions to Gibraltar [it] is universally condemned by *all* present Guardsmen. Myself I don't think they will get the men, especially at the present standard. In the Scots Guards, we are eighty below strength at the present moment, and now is generally the best recruiting season in the year. While wishing to see the Guards increased, I very much regret their being sent abroad in peace time. It cannot but ultimately affect injuriously the status of the Guards if they are put on the Foreign Service roster. The demand for garrisoning our coaling stations will go on increasing, and it seems a great pity that the Marines should not be increased for this amphibious duty. You have no idea how strong and universal is the feeling in the Guards against their being permanently removed, as regards a portion of

them, from the country. I think Wolseley discounts this, but I have found out that the feeling is general, though many don't like to give expression to it. Believe me, yours very sincerely, ARTHUR.

[Copy.] *Sir Arthur Bigge to Sir Francis Knollys.*

OSBORNE, 12th January 1897.

MY DEAR KNOLLYS,—The Queen has seen me with regard to your letter of yesterday respecting the Guards, and desires me to say that she is very sorry to be unable to approve of a letter being written to Lord Lansdowne in the terms suggested by his Royal Highness.

Her Majesty quite agrees with the Prince's view that the period of service at Gibraltar should be at the most a year and a half, and Lord Lansdowne has been informed to that effect. But the Queen is disinclined to suggest that the arrangement should only be regarded as a temporary one. Much as she would like to see a permanent Brigade of Guards at Aldershot, her Majesty understands that an increase of the Guards without foreign service would meet with strong opposition both in and out of Parliament.¹

If the scheme works badly and the Guards suffer, the Queen says it can always be reconsidered.

[Telegram.] *The Earl of Elgin to Queen Victoria.*

CALCUTTA, 15th Jan. 1897.—Your Majesty's patronage of Famine Fund enthusiastically received at large meeting yesterday. Movement successfully started. VICEROY.

The Empress Frederick to Queen Victoria.

[Copy.] *Private.*

KAISER FRIEDRICH PALAIS, BERLIN, 16th January 1897.

. . . In a letter I received from Sophie² I find the following passage which I simply repeat in the

¹ Sir Francis Knollys replied next day that the Prince of Wales was "bitterly disappointed" at the Queen's decision.

² The Crown Princess of Greece, Duchess of Sparta, the Empress Frederick's daughter.

hopes that Lord Salisbury and you may find a means of preventing what would be *horrible*. I have of course *no right* to speak about it, but if one can do *any* good by *not* being silent, it is better to speak! **HERE** I should not *dare do* so, but perhaps you could tell Lord Salisbury; he is wise, and will perhaps find a way of warding off a misfortune which may assume greater dimensions than we can foresee.

Sophie says, "I am dying to go to Grandmama's Jubilee, but there will be many things to prevent it, also, I fear, fighting in Macedonia and Crete; there is no possibility or hope of preventing people here, they are *poussés à bout*, exasperated; they make their preparations secretly, *do not* speak about it in general! It will be known soon enough!! This is, alas, the result of the Powers doing nothing decided enough and letting matters drift." You can imagine how this torments me! The Sultan is an impossible creature, and does not keep a single promise! He is so false, sly, and mad, and such awfully untrustworthy people about him. . . .

*The Lord Mayor of London to Sir Arthur Bigge.
Private and Confidential.*

THE MANSION HOUSE, LONDON, 16th January 1897.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR BIGGE,—It is the earnest wish of the citizens of London that they should enjoy the opportunity of welcoming her gracious Majesty the Queen at St. Paul's Cathedral, in the heart of their city, on the occasion of the celebration of the unprecedented event to which the entire nation is looking forward. I hardly need to assure you that this sentiment is as deeply felt as it is widely extended.

Acquainted as I am with her Majesty's feeling as to alighting from her carriage, I will venture to suggest that a choral reception upon an unprecedented scale should be arranged as a greeting outside the Cathedral.

May I express the hope that you will favour me with a line, addressed confidentially, as to the manner in which the Corporation of the City of London should

submit to her Majesty their loyal address? I remain, dear Sir Arthur Bigge, yours faithfully, G. FAUDEL-PHILLIPS, Lord Mayor.

[*Copy.*] *Sir Arthur Bigge to the Lord Mayor of London.*
Private.

OSBORNE, 19th January 1897.

MY DEAR LORD MAYOR,—The proposal that the Queen should be present at an open-air service outside St. Paul's Cathedral on the occasion of the Queen's commemoration has already been suggested; but it has not yet been actually brought before H.M., as for many reasons it would be unadvisable just now¹ to submit this officially to the Queen.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 20th Jan. 1897.—This sad anniversary² returns for the first time, and the intensity of the loss is as great as ever. To see my darling child's happy married life shattered is too dreadful. But we must look beyond this world, and pray God to continue to help her, as He has so visibly done. Many kind letters and telegrams to both Beatrice and me. At twelve we all went to a memorial service at Whippingham.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 21st Jan. 1897.—Lord Salisbury . . . tenders his thanks for permission to read the letter of the Empress Frederick which he returns herewith.

He fears that there is no step which your Majesty's Government could take to guard against the danger of which H.R.H. the Duchess of Sparta speaks. A similar danger was averted twelve years ago by a blockade of the Piræus, in which the six Powers took part; and under the pressure of it the Greek Government was able to put a stop to the incursions into Macedonia. But no such measure would be practicable now. Even if the other Powers could be induced

¹ See following extract from the Queen's Journal.

² Of the death of Prince Henry of Battenberg.

to join, which is very doubtful, Great Britain could not now take warlike action against Greece for the purpose of upholding the Sultan's Government in Macedonia, where it has been so bad, and so many promises have been broken.

It would be very desirable if the Ambassadors could move more rapidly ; but it is very difficult to obtain a unanimous decision from six different persons, looking at matters from absolutely different points of view, upon a problem of unexampled difficulty.

Sir Francis Knollys to Sir Arthur Bigge.

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, 22nd January 1897.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—The Prince of Wales desires me to let you know, for the Queen's information, that he asked the following to meet him here yesterday, all of whom, with the exception of the Duke of Westminster and Lord Londonderry, came. Lord Strafford (Lord-Lieutenant Middlesex), Duke of Westminster (Lord-Lieutenant London), Duke of Norfolk, Bishop of London, Cardinal Vaughan, Bishop of Stepney, Rev. J. Guinness Rogers (one of the most prominent of the Non-conformist Ministers in London), Chief Rabbi, Lord Rothschild, Lord Rowton, Lord Iveagh, Lord Mayor of London, Chairman of London School Board (Lord Londonderry), Chairman of London County Council (Sir Arthur Arnold), Governor of Bank of England (Mr. A. Sandeman), President of Royal Society (Sir Joseph Lister), President of Royal College of Physicians (Dr. Wilks), President of Royal College of Surgeons (Sir Wm. MacCormac), Sir Horace Farquhar, M.P. (Metropolitan Member), Mr. John Aird, M.P. (Metropolitan Member), Mr. Sydney Buxton, M.P. (Metropolitan Member), Mr. Henry Burdett, Mr. E. A. Hambro, Mr. Julius Wernher.

H.R.H. was in the Chair, and brought forward his scheme as London's local object for celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of the Queen's reign, which is perhaps best explained by the following Resolution which was proposed by Lord Strafford, seconded by

the Bishop of London, and carried unanimously, "That it is desirable to commemorate the sixtieth year on the lines suggested by the Prince of Wales with the object of obtaining at least £100,000 of additional revenue for the Metropolitan Hospitals and Convalescent Institutions, and that this sum be raised in annual subscriptions of a shilling and upwards from persons who have not hitherto acquired the habit of giving regularly to these Institutions."

I may mention that the meeting was of opinion that this scheme would not injure the one (the Queen's Jubilee Nurses) advocated by the Duke of Westminster, this latter movement being a national one, whereas the former will be confined to the Metropolitan area, and only Londoners will be asked to subscribe to it.

The Prince of Wales' scheme likewise has for its object *annual* subscriptions, while the Duke of Westminster seeks for donations.

Perhaps it is not generally known that it is calculated that only 1 per cent. of the population in London give anything to the Metropolitan Hospitals. Should the Prince of Wales' scheme be successful, and people competent to give an opinion on a matter of this nature anticipate no difficulty about it, the London Hospitals will for the future be placed on a sound financial basis, as they will be able to make their annual income agree with their expenditure, which unfortunately at present is not the case with the large majority of them. Yours sincerely, FRANCIS KNOLLYS.¹

Sir Matthew Ridley to Sir Arthur Bigge.

Private.

HOME DEPARTMENT, 22nd January 1897.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—Certainly I did not personally care for "Diamond Jubilee," but it is not for me or the H[ome] O[ffice] to raise objection, if the Queen has a fancy for it. And apparently it is likely to catch on.

¹ When this letter was submitted to the Queen, her Majesty quite approved, but hoped it would in no way interfere with subscriptions for the Indian Empire.

"Jubilee" has got its meaning from the old Jewish law, and is certainly inseparably connected with a notion of fifty years. "Diamond" is understood because it is used to mark the completion of sixty years of married life—Silver twenty-five, Golden fifty, Diamond sixty (at least I fancy this is so). "Diamond Jubilee" is a combination, and, though not strictly correct, yet intelligible. Somebody has suggested "Jubilissimee." This would not, I think, take on. I like personally "The Queen's Year" for the year and "The Queen's Commemoration" for the ceremony. But I do not for a moment quarrel with "Diamond Jubilee" under the circumstances. . . . Yours truly, M. W. RIDLEY.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 24th January 1897.

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—*Present from Mayor of Coventry.*¹ This case is a difficult one. If you accept all, you will receive a great number which will be mere advertisements from pushing tradesmen of various kinds; and also from people who have a position to establish, such as Barnato, Hooley, Isaacson, or people who are on the hunt for knighthoods. On the other hand, I cannot help feeling the justice of the Queen's view that the refusal of the Mayor of Coventry's present would give offence.

Would it be possible to make a rule against accepting presents except from public bodies, or persons representing them? This would be very elastic: it would avoid giving offence to the more important people; but at the same time would, in the main, exclude the self-advertisers.

Can you tell me how you stand with respect to the "Jubilee"? Has the Queen consented, as I hear, to attend a service in St. Paul's Churchyard? Has Mr. Chamberlain submitted his idea of bringing over some Prime Ministers from the larger Colonies to be present on the occasion? The Chinese hint that they mean to

¹ See above, p. 118.

send an Envoy, are they to be encouraged? The Indian Office have been informed that Indian Princes are not to be discouraged; but Crowned Heads have been definitely rejected. With an improving revenue the Chancellor of the Exchequer is in a more sanguine state of mind. Yours very truly, SALISBURY.

Sir Arthur Bigge to the Mayor of Coventry.

[Copy.]

OSBORNE, 25th January 1897.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter to me of the 11th inst. has been duly laid before the Queen.

Her Majesty does not as a rule accept gifts from private individuals with whom she is personally unacquainted. But in view of your official position as Mayor of your City, the Queen will have much pleasure in receiving the presents you are kind enough to offer as specimens of the three principal industries of Coventry. I am, dear sir, yours very faithfully, ARTHUR BIGGE.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 27th Jan. 1897.—Heard the sad news of Dr. Profeit's death. He had been ill for a long time, and latterly there was no hope of recovery. He had been my Commissioner at Balmoral since '75, and resigned on account of his failing health. Another sad thing is that good old Mrs. Symon, at the shop at Balmoral, is hopelessly ill and sinking fast. The place will be quite changed with all the old ties breaking away.

Sir Francis Knollys to Sir Arthur Bigge.

SANDRINGHAM, 29th January 1897.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—. . . The Prince of Wales . . . had already heard from the Empress Frederick about the Emperor coming over here, and he wrote to her strongly against the idea. He hopes you will speak to the Queen very strongly from him in the same sense. He says that although the German Emperor is the Queen's grandson, it would be, he is sure, a great mistake were he to be the only Sovereign invited. He would arrive also with an enormous suite, and would

try to arrange things himself and endless trouble would arise. H.R.H. is certain the Queen will regret it if she gives way, and he hopes she will not allow herself to be persuaded by the Empress to consent. . . .

Queen Victoria to Sir Arthur Bigge.

OSBORNE, 30th Jan. 1897.—Sir A. Bigge may tell the Prince of Wales that there is *not* the slightest fear of the Queen's giving way about the Emperor William's coming here in June. It would *never* do for many reasons, and the Queen is surprised that the Empress should urge it.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 31st January 1897.

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—The Queen Regent of Holland wishes to know whether H.M. will receive congratulatory Embassies from Foreign Powers on the "Diamond" Jubilee. The Dutch Minister rather hinted that the Queen Regent desired to come herself; but he particularly desired me to note that she has not made any such announcement to him.

Beach and Harcourt, the two Chancellors of the Exchequer, had agreed that they would pay without stint for big foreign Royalties and the reception of them. They were therefore very much grieved at the announcement of "No crowned heads." I pointed out to them that the exertion which the Queen very rightly desired to avoid as much as possible, would be involved in the reception of crowned heads more than in any other ceremony. They remain unconvinced, and weep over their crowned heads.

I think a Naval Review would be a most fitting mode of celebration, but the royal presence in some manner would, I fear, be essential. Yours very truly,
SALISBURY.

Lord George Hamilton to Queen Victoria.

INDIA OFFICE, 1st Feb. 1897.—Lord George Hamilton with his humble duty to your Majesty has

the honour to enclose the latest telegrams relating to the Plague. He has also had two fairly reassuring letters from Lords Elgin and Sandhurst in regard to the adequacy of the machinery created to deal with famine, and the gradual extirpation of the Plague.

Whilst the sufferings of the people are great and acute, it must be some satisfaction to your Majesty that it is in your reign that the first systematic efforts have been made to deal with these evils, and that a few years back calamities of this magnitude would have destroyed many millions without hope of help.

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

COLONIAL OFFICE, 1st Feb. 1897.—Mr. Chamberlain presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and begs to inform your Majesty that he has to-day heard from Lord Rosmead, who desires on account of his health to resign his position at the Cape. Lord Rosmead is advised by his doctors that it would be dangerous for him to come home during the English winter, and he therefore proposes to return by a steamer leaving in April. He suggests that he might be granted three months' leave and retire permanently in July. Mr. Chamberlain is disposed to think that it would not be wise to leave this important position unfilled for so long a period, and he is writing to Lord Rosmead to suggest that his resignation should take effect in April or May.

When Lord Rosmead has resigned, Mr. Chamberlain proposes to submit to your Majesty, for your Majesty's approval, the name of Sir Alfred Milner, K.C.B., to fill the office of Governor of the Cape and High Commissioner. Sir Alfred Milner occupied a high position in Egypt under Lord Cromer, and has a great reputation for ability, firmness, and discretion. After discussing the subject with Lord Salisbury, Mr. Chamberlain feels assured that there is no one in the Civil Service of your Majesty who is better qualified to fill this most important and responsible position.

Mr. Chamberlain will make a formal recommendation to your Majesty in due course, when Lord Rosmead's resignation has been received, but meanwhile, he humbly submits the foregoing for your Majesty's information.

Sir Arthur Bigge to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Copy.*]

OSBORNE, 8th February 1897.

DEAR LORD SALISBURY,—The Queen thinks that it might be well if you were to instruct the Ambassadors at the various Courts (except Berlin) to make known that the German Emperor had expressed a wish to be present on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee in June next. But her Majesty felt that it would be impossible at that particular time to show the Emperor, or any Sovereign, the hospitality and attention which her Majesty would wish that they should receive.

The Queen therefore suggested that his Imperial Majesty should be represented by the Crown Prince of Germany, to which proposal the Emperor has not yet given an answer.

The Queen would wish the Ambassadors in making this announcement to ascertain as soon as possible whether it is proposed to send any representative of the Sovereign of the country to which they are respectively accredited. Yours very truly, ARTHUR BIGGE.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

OSBORNE, 9th Feb. 1897.—Humble duty. We have done what we can to prevent warlike action on the part of the Greek Government, and we are asking Russian Government to exert their influence.

If the French and Russians had allowed the *gendarmérie* to be organised three weeks ago, these calamities would have been prevented. But they refused their assent because Major Bor, the only available Commandant, was an Englishman. . . .

Sir Arthur Bigge to the Marquis of Salisbury.
[Cypher Telegram.]

OSBORNE, 11th Feb. 1897.—Your letter to the Queen reporting Cabinet on Guards.¹ H.M. desires me to say though she agreed to the scheme when informed that it was acceptable to responsible military authorities, she nevertheless always thought it would be preferable to raise more line battalions to meet the deficiency; that in present crisis in the East we ought not to grudge a certain increase of annual expenditure to make the army effective, to properly adjust the system of reliefs, to ensure the men not being overworked, and in fact not to leave the country destitute of what is necessary.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 12th Feb. 1897.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully thanks your Majesty for your letter of this morning, and for the extract from the Duchess of Sparta's letter which he returns.

The danger of allowing the Cretans to declare their union with Greece or their independence is, that such a commencement of the partition of the Ottoman Empire would be immediately followed by risings in various parts, especially Macedonia, and by a bloody struggle between the Moslems and the Christians throughout the Empire. Even in Crete, there would not be peace; for it is evident that the Moslems will fight desperately to be freed from a Christian Government.

To support the Cretan insurgents at this time would be to quarrel with the other Great Powers, who are at present unanimous in desiring that Crete shall remain part of the Ottoman Empire; and could have no other effect than to increase the area of

¹ Lord Salisbury had reported on the previous day that the Cabinet had had an inconclusive discussion on the subject: "It is evident that outside the War Office there is no great acceptance of the scheme. And some distinguished soldiers, who were in favour of it, appear to have modified their opinions." But the scheme was proceeded with.

bloody conflict. Lord Salisbury cannot think that it is either the duty or the interest of your Majesty to pursue such a policy. It is impossible not to feel deep sympathy with the King of Greece in his present difficulties. But he will probably find it easier to give way to the Great Powers than to put himself at the head of all the revolutionary forces in the south-east of Europe, whom he would soon find to be too unruly and violent for his control. Lord Salisbury saw the German, Austrian, and Russian Ambassadors this evening, and corresponded with the French Ambassador last night. Their Governments were all resolutely opposed to the withdrawal of Crete from the Turkish Empire.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.
[*Cypher Telegram.*]

OSBORNE, 13th Feb. 1897.—What am I to tell Empress in answer to telegram from Duke of Sparta? The Powers WILL have to act energetically. But after such treatment the Cretans will never be quiet again.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.
[*Cypher Telegram.*]

14th Feb. 1897.—Humble duty. Lord Salisbury has received from the Russian Ambassador a communication stating that his Government think, in case of emergency, the Naval Commanders in Cretan waters should decide to land detachments and arrange with Turkish authorities for restoration of tranquillity.¹ The Island would thus be held in trust by European forces, until solution of Cretan question by the European concert. Lord Salisbury proposes, with your Majesty's approval, replying that we shall be prepared to instruct our naval officers in the sense of the communication, if we are informed Imperial

¹ The Queen, in her Journal on the same date, wrote: "God grant that the proposal may be carried out!"

Government is doing so ; but that we do not propose taking any isolated action of the kind described.

Bishop Davidson to Sir Fleetwood Edwards.

FARNHAM CASTLE, 14th February 1897.

MY DEAR EDWARDS,—I wrote fully to the Archbishop of Canterbury and to the Bishop of London. I enclose replies.

It is clear the thing can be managed, and, given fine weather, it may be very effective in all respects. Pray adhere to the idea of a *Te Deum* rather than either Psalms or (far worse) a *chorale*. The last-named would have no such national or historic significance as a simple *Te Deum*. The musical authorities must be told it is to be no elaborate "service" of *Te Deum*, but a simple chant or other rendering without "vain repetitions." It *can* be done, if it is ordered. It would not take many minutes. My own notion would be—*Te Deum*, a FEW prayers, Benediction. A quarter of an hour could cover it all, if need be. Ever yours, RANDALL WINTON.

ENCLOSURE

Archbishop Temple to Bishop Davidson.

51 LENNOX GARDENS, S.W., 13th February 1897.

MY DEAR BISHOP OF WINCHESTER,—I see nothing inappropriate in an outdoor service immediately in front of the west entrance of St. Paul's Cathedral.

For such a service there ought to be a very powerful choir and carefully prepared music. Her Majesty would sit in her carriage in the centre, immediately at the foot of the steps. The Clergy and Choir would be on the steps and on the platform close to the entrance. The service might consist of Psalms and Prayers, and need not last more than twenty minutes. Stands might be erected, and rooms in the houses on each side hired.

Such a ceremony in the very heart of the city would be an expression of thanks to God not soon to be forgotten. I am, my dear Lord, yours faithfully, F. CANTUAR.¹

¹ The Bishop of London (Dr. Creighton) wrote to the same general effect, but added : " I was greatly struck at Moscow by the impressiveness of a crowd, waiting the arrival of the Emperor, while their thoughts were silently turned to prayer by the sight of the ecclesiastics waiting in the church porch. The spectacle itself was significant of religious feeling."

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

WINDSOR CASTLE, 15th Feb. 1897.—I rejoice to see that the Powers have agreed to the only possible course. I hope there will be no delay, else we shall no longer be able to prevent a real war between Greece and Turkey. The conduct of the Greek Government is most unfortunate; but I fear the King can no longer keep his people back.

The Admirals should act with promptitude.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

17th Feb. 1897.—. . . A Cabinet was held to-day. . . . As to Crete, the discussion was anxious and prolonged. The Liberal Unionists were very Hellenic in their sympathies; and wished for an absolute abandonment of any policy hostile to the demands of Greece. Lord James and Mr. Chamberlain specially took this view. The Conservative Members of the Cabinet were more concerned to avoid any action which might break up the Turkish Empire and bring on a general war. All, however, were anxious that Crete should not be again put under Turkish rule, though it might remain part of the Turkish Empire; in fact, that it should be autonomous in some form or other. It was resolved, therefore, that as a preliminary to considering the question of applying the blockade to Greece, the five Powers should be invited to express their opinion upon this question of autonomy, which accordingly has been done.

Lord Salisbury represented to Lord Lansdowne that changing the names of regiments, without first taking your Majesty's pleasure, was a most improper proceeding; and that your Majesty had felt it to be so. He expressed his extreme regret, and said it had been done by inadvertence, partly owing to the great work the War Office have lately had, partly to Lord Wolseley's illness. He promised to be careful that it should not occur again.

Lord George Hamilton to Queen Victoria.

INDIA OFFICE, 18th Feb. 1897.—Lord George Hamilton presents his humble duty to your Majesty.

In accordance with the Queen's wishes, he has been in communication with the Viceroy on the subject of the attendance of native Princes at the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee, and he (the Viceroy) has informed them that they will be welcome, if in this year of distress they find it possible or convenient to leave their territories.

Lord Elgin is of opinion that the best native Chiefs will be unable to come, and that the attendance here will not be as representative as would be wished. The whole payment of the cost of the reception of Nasrulla Khan (the Ameer's son) by the Government during his stay in this country last summer will cause some annoyance to those who now come and pay their own expenses. These and other difficulties may prevent as satisfactory a response to the enquiry of the Viceroy, as would be obtained in times of less stress.

The arrangements for your Majesty's escort are proceeding satisfactorily, and it is suggested that in addition to the escort of twenty native cavalry, there should be a representative escort of twenty officers and non-commissioned officers of the Imperial Service Corps in the pay of the native Chiefs, but kept for co-operative service with the Queen Empress's Indian troops.

A list is enclosed showing the Chiefs who would be thus personally represented through an officer thus selected from their troops. If the difficulties of securing an adequate and satisfactory attendance of native Chiefs should increase, Lord George would venture to suggest for the Queen's consideration that this escort might be accepted as a substitute.

Lord Elgin's present instructions are to persevere in endeavouring to secure the attendance of the Chiefs themselves, but if he were to fail with the more important, it would be difficult to reverse any arrange-

ment made with the smaller Chiefs. Lord George would therefore await her Majesty's wishes on the subject.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 19th Feb.—Lord George Hamilton . . . has the honour to submit the enclosed telegram from the Viceroy which confirms his submission of yesterday.¹

An escort of forty native cavalry, each representing a separate regiment and twenty feudatory States, will be a very effective representation of the Queen Empress's authority.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 19th Feb. 1897.—Again many telegrams. William and his Government very violent about Greece, France anxious to be cautious and not to settle anything in a hurry, Russia, Austria, Italy, as well as ourselves, against a blockade. Lord James talked to me for some time after dinner. He is much distressed at the present state of affairs in the East, and shocked at the conduct of Germany, which Lord Salisbury calls "brutal." Lord James praised Lord Salisbury in the highest degree, and said the one wish of the Cabinet was to support him in all his difficulties, for he was so very wise and calm, and so dispassionate, really at the present moment the only great statesman in Europe.

The Empress Frederick to Queen Victoria.

19th February 1897.

MY BELOVED MAMA,—I thought you might like to read what Sophie says in the letter received last night. How one *longs* for this *nightmare* to be removed, and to be able to sleep and breathe again.

[*Extract.*]

From Sophie.

ATHENS, 18th February [1897].

Things look *black everywhere*, it seems to me the danger is imminent and cannot be averted. If not in Crete, there will be

¹ In the course of the telegram the Viceroy said: "Fear any adequate representation of Chiefs in person hopeless. We shall obtain through Imperial Service Corps excellent representatives of Native States."

fresh trouble in Macedonia, I am sure. Here people are sanguine we shall have Crete ! If the Powers could only see for once that the only way of preventing an insurrection in Macedonia is by letting us have Crete. The insurrection in Macedonia has long been preparing, and may break out any day ! Nothing can prevent it. The people's exasperation against the Turks and hatred of them has grown *too strong*. This was *sure* to come sooner or later, now nothing can keep it down. The Powers might have helped some time ago, but they did not, and the small States, despairing of any other means, will try to help themselves. Of course it is mad and dangerous to run such risks, especially for us, but people are desperate. I think with fright and horror of the future. It makes one mad to think of all the misery that may yet come !

Even if the Powers do *not* give us Crete, they must know that never never will the Cretans rest, or the Island have peace, until they are Greek.

This is a specimen of what is thought at Athens, and, though no doubt the Powers do not think it worth their while to enquire or to think about what is thought in so small and insignificant a country, yet England has always been humane and more large-hearted in this respect, and has considered the claims and the situation of the weak, and would perhaps *not* willingly see a country that has made *much* progress in the last thirty years, though it has still much to learn, annihilated by the Turk, as no doubt the German Government of to-day would. . . . Lord Salisbury's genius is particularly great in *dealing* with *difficulties*, and perhaps he may extricate us all from the deadlock into which things have drifted. . . .

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

19th Feb. 1897.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty to your Majesty respectfully renders his thanks to your Majesty for allowing him to see the interesting suggestions of the Empress. It is not necessary to say that Lord Salisbury will reflect upon them carefully. As, however, the matter has been very maturely considered, he respectfully lays before your Majesty the difficulties which stand in the way of offering *very* favourable terms to Greece at present.

1. The Powers are very angry with her. Germany

shows it in the most brutal way; but all without exception feel the affront offered to them and the great confusion caused by Greek action.

2. If Greece gained in the present or the near probable future by her recent action, Servia, Bulgaria, Montenegro would not stay quiet. They would be provoked to move not only by the success of the Greek manœuvre, but still more because in the competition for power Greece is their chief rival; and if she is aggrandised they would claim "compensation" out of Macedonia, in order to put them again on an even footing with Greece.

3. It seems perfidious on our part to mutilate the Turkish Empire on this occasion; for it was by the advice of the Ambassadors that Turkey withdrew her troops from Crete last autumn. If they had not been withdrawn the Greek enterprise would have been impossible. It seems rather hard to use this opportunity for depriving the Sultan even of the nominal suzerainty over Crete.

If the news which has just come in is true, that the Greeks are advancing upon Canea which we occupy, the difficulty of favouring her will be still greater.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

HATFIELD HOUSE, 20th February 1897.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—I think the reception of the two Houses *en masse* would be far the best arrangement, if H.M. is not afraid of the fatigue.

Would you kindly take H.M.'s pleasure in a matter of trivial importance, but which I am forced to refer to her? The Spanish Ambassador has proposed on behalf of the Queen Regent to confer some Order (I am not certain which) upon my wife. I told him that it was absolutely against rule, and could not be distinguished in effect from conferring an Order on a servant of the Crown; that it was impossible in short, both because she was a British subject, and because she was the wife of a Minister. He has, however,

renewed the matter again and again, and insisted on my referring it to the Queen.

I only trouble her because otherwise it will seem rude to stop him. I wish the Queen to allow me to say that I have referred it to her ; that she has replied that it is absolutely against rule, and that the rule could not be relaxed in this case without being broken down altogether.¹ I attach great importance to the maintenance of the rule ; and I know that in this view Lord Rosebery entirely agrees with me. Yours very truly, SALISBURY.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

WINDSOR CASTLE, 21st Feb. 1897.—. . . I think the King of Greece should now be told to recall his ships, as Crete will be under the protection and guard of the Powers, and he can surely tell his subjects that he cannot resist the united Powers.

I wish you would desire Sir F. Lascelles to tell the German Emperor from me, that I was astonished and shocked at his violent language against the country where his sister lives. He could surely have abstained from such language.

Queen Victoria to Sir Charles Scott.²

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

23rd Feb. 1897.—Communicate following from me to the King of Denmark. "Feel exceedingly anxious at state of affairs. Has not moment arrived when your son can cause all further bloodshed to cease by giving way with *honour* to the demonstrations of the united Powers? Fear nothing to be gained by further armed resistance."

¹ Sir Arthur Bigge wrote on 22nd February on the Queen's behalf authorising Lord Salisbury to make such a statement as he desired to the Spanish Ambassador, coupled with an assurance of her Majesty's appreciation of the Queen Regent's "most gracious suggestion."

² British Minister at Copenhagen.

Sir Charles Scott to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

24th Feb. 1897.—Humble duty. Your Majesty's message was privately communicated to the King of Denmark this morning. H.M. has just been here to desire me to thank your Majesty for it.

He fully shares your Majesty's grave anxiety, and would gladly do anything in his power to assist to stop bloodshed, but feels himself quite powerless to exert influence on the King of Greece in political matters, on which, although the best of sons, H.M. retains very strong independent views; and therefore the King of Denmark has for years always abstained from every attempt to offer him advice on political subjects. His Majesty proposes to write to your Majesty himself more fully privately.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

24th Feb. 1897.—. . . At the Cabinet to-day the situation in respect to Greece was anxiously discussed. It was felt to be necessary to assure the English people that under no circumstances would the Cretans be replaced under the direct Government of the Sultan. Again it was necessary to assure the five other powers that Crete would remain a portion of the Ottoman Empire. And above all, it was necessary to take some active steps to bring the present situation to a close, lest rebellions in other parts of the Turkish Empire should break out.

It was therefore resolved to telegraph this evening to the Powers that we accepted the three principles of autonomy, maintenance of integrity of Ottoman Empire, and compulsion, if necessary, upon the Greeks or Turks to compel them to withdraw their troops from Crete.

The Ambassadors here seem to be favourable to the declaration, and to regard our difficulties as at an end. But the German makes difficulties; and there is still reason to fear that the Emperor William may

prove obstructive. Satisfactory telegrams from Russia have been received, *very severe* against Greece. The present attitude of the King of Greece is much to be regretted. . . .

Sir Francis Knollys to Sir Arthur Bigge.

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, 25th February 1897.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—The Prince of Wales is very glad indeed to hear that the Queen has consented to return via London Bridge and the south side of the river, and he feels sure it will have a most excellent effect. He sees no reason why the line of route should not be made public as soon as it has been approved of by the Queen ; on the contrary, he thinks the publication may prevent much inconvenience. . . . Yours ever, FRANCIS KNOLLYS.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 1st March 1897.—The Archbishop and Mrs. Temple, Cecilia D[owne], Lord Mount Edgcumbe, Count Seckendorff, and Sir A. Bigge dined. The Archbishop, who sat next to me, was very pleasant, and told many anecdotes.

Received a telegram this morning, which has been sent to Sir Philip Currie, and which to a certain extent anticipated what I had cyphered to Lord Salisbury about : "The state of opinion in Parliament is such that you should make the intimation as to withdrawal of troops as the view of H.M.'s Government separately, even if your colleagues do not join. Explain to them unofficially that such an attitude is necessary, in order to prevent an explosion of sentiment which might endanger the European concert."

Bishop Davidson to Sir Arthur Bigge.

FARNHAM CASTLE, 1st March 1897.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—What you say is most important. I fully agree that if the service outside St. Paul's is given out as the great objective of the Queen's visit to the City, the space available is inadequate, and

the result would be disappointing. But my notion was quite different. It was this—

1. That there should be great Cathedral and other services everywhere throughout England on Sunday 20th, including as I should hope a service in St. George's, whereat the Queen would be present, even if only for a short time (entering and leaving privately by cloister door).

2. That quite apart from this set of thanksgiving services of a great and formal sort, the Queen should on Tuesday 22nd drive through London, an INCIDENT in the drive being the brief service outside St. Paul's just to show that the religious side is not omitted in the national pageant. This ought to be made clear beforehand, so as to show that it is not "the Queen going to St. Paul's," but "the Queen's triumphal procession through the capital of the Empire," the drive, or procession, including a stoppage at St. Paul's, where a *Te Deum* will be sung.

If the St. Paul's service were regarded as the objective, it would be in my opinion unsatisfactory in all ways, as the service itself would seem musically inadequate to such an occasion.

3. I quite realise the difficulties as to weather. But I don't see how they are to be avoided. If the day were to be really *bad*, the service, short in any case, would have to be still further curtailed, but clergy are well used (at funerals and elsewhere) to braving the elements, even in winter, and this is in *June*. It seems to me that the present proposal of a route *on both sides of the river* gets rid of the difficulty of its appearing that H.M. simply "visits the city." She would really pass through regions of every sort, under varying jurisdiction. It was for that reason that I rejoiced to learn from the Duke of Connaught of the provisional acceptance or approval of the crossing over London Bridge, driving through the magnificent broad streets of South London, and returning by Westminster.

If I were now announcing the matter, I should lay

primary stress on the great universal services of 20th June, Sunday, and then upon the Queen's procession through London, making comparatively little of St. Paul's service, though I think it is essential that there should be some such service to mark the religious recognition of the national demonstration. . . . Ever yours, RANDALL WINTON.

Sir Arthur Bigge to Queen Victoria.

2nd March 1897.—Humbly submitted. The Chief Rabbi has applied to Lord Salisbury to know whether your Majesty approves of public services of Thanksgiving being held on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee, and if so, on what date. Lord Salisbury suggests that a similar reply to that of 1887 should be given, viz.: "Her Majesty fully approves of a Public Thanksgiving being held by all religious denominations within the British Empire on —," and Sir A. Bigge would humbly suggest that this should be on "Sunday 20th."

If your Majesty approves, might *one particular hour* be named for the services in the United Kingdom, and that the same hour as the service at which your Majesty attends? Mr. Balfour, speaking on the subject last week, thought the idea of simultaneous services with that of your Majesty's own service would be vastly appreciated by your Majesty's subjects. Perhaps 11 a.m. would be a similar hour if convenient to your Majesty.

The reason for submitting the question now is that notice should be sent to the Colonies.

Endorsed by Queen Victoria:

Quite approve. 11 should be the hour V. R. I.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Sir Arthur Bigge.

WAR OFFICE, 2nd March 1897.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 27th intimating her Majesty's desire that H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught should command the troops on the 22nd of June.

I have conveyed her Majesty's commands to Lord Wolseley, who at once replied that, so far as he was concerned, he had only one wish, namely, to make whatever arrangements might be most agreeable to her Majesty. I am, my dear Bigge, yours sincerely,
LANSDOWNE.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

20 ARLINGTON STREET, S.W., 6th March 1897.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully acknowledges your Majesty's note with respect to Raffuddin Ahmed.¹ Lord Salisbury is fully acquainted with his ability, and would gladly employ him if a suitable opportunity occurred.

But he has made efforts in that direction, and has unfortunately met with indications of that prejudice which exists in your Majesty's services and which makes our position more difficult than the position of other Governments who have races of different origin to govern.

Sir Arthur Bigge to Queen Victoria.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 8th March 1897.—Sir Arthur Bigge humbly begs to report that he saw Lord Lansdowne this morning about the Duke of Connaught becoming Adjutant-General.

The Secretary of State said he was very glad to know your Majesty's views on the subject, as, although he had not yet begun to consider who should succeed Sir Redvers Buller, it was important to him to know that the Duke of Connaught would be a candidate for the post. He made no difficulties, and promised to talk to the Commander-in-Chief on the subject, and, later on, to let Sir A. Bigge know what could be done.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

IN THE TRAIN, 11th March 1897.—At a little before six stopped at the junction of Noisy-le-Sec on the Ceinture railway outside Paris. Here the President

¹ A native Indian barrister, who wished to enter the diplomatic service. See vol. ii, pp. 566-568.

of the Republic, M. Félix Faure, came into my saloon, and was presented by Sir E. Monson.¹ I received the President alone, and asked him to sit down. We had some conversation, and he began by compliments about my coming again to France, saying the pleasure it gave the people to have me in their country. Then I remarked that the present was a very anxious time, that political affairs seemed very difficult, in which he agreed. He was thankful the English and French had been able to rescue the unfortunate 3,000 Turks. He felt very much for Willy² of Greece, whom he knew well, but said it would not do to begin to dismember Turkey. She might have avoided all, if some time ago she had listened to the advice given her. M. Faure is a tall, good-looking man, elderly, very gentlemanlike, and pleasing, evidently sensible and quiet.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

12th March 1897.—Humble duty. Russia has instructed Admiral to blockade Crete and the coasts of Greece when the other Admirals are similarly instructed. We are instructing our Admiral under the same conditions to join in blockade of Crete and of Bay of Volo; but if Admirals shall propose blockade of Piræus on strategical grounds, he is to refer home for further instructions before doing so.

The Empress Frederick to Queen Victoria.

? March 1897.

MY BELOVED MAMA,—I will try to calm dear Alix.³ I shall say the more united the Powers are in their bullying action the more evident it *must* become to the poor Greek people that their Sovereign and Government have had to yield to a *force majeure* which *could* not be resisted!

¹ British Ambassador in Paris.

² William was the King's name as a Prince of Denmark, and "Willy" was still used in the family.

³ The Princess of Wales (afterwards Queen Alexandra), sister to the King of Greece.

What grieves Alix, and me too, so much is that England, THE Power so beloved and looked up to in Greece, should have *had* to play so prominent a part in these threatening actions and demonstrations, and that in Greece it will create a terrible feeling of bitterness against us for a long while, though I *should* think the attitude of *Germany* must prove how England, in contrast to her, has been moderating and *not* fanning the flame against Greece. . . . Your devoted and dutiful daughter, VICTORIA.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

16th March 1897.—Humble duty. Cabinet to-day decided to send the troops recommended by Admirals, namely, 500 for each Power; also they have pressed on the Powers the absolute necessity for military occupation of Island by 10,000 men. They have offered that England will consent to these being furnished by any of the other five Powers, or will furnish them herself, but any blockade of Greek mainland can be only joined in by England if the military occupation of Crete is first provided for.

We do not believe, after this military occupation, that Greece will continue to resist.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

CIMIEZ, 17th March 1897.—George C[ambridge] came to luncheon from Cannes, and directly afterwards the Emperor of Austria arrived. He was most kind and amiable. I asked him to call me "Du," which seemed to please him. He is distressed at the Cretan troubles, but rejoices greatly at the union of the Great Powers, and thinks there can be no general war.

[*Copy.*] *Queen Victoria to the Earl of Elgin.*

CIMIEZ, 19th March 1897.—The state of Crete causes the Queen great anxiety and is very complicated. The Queen is most anxious (as is Lord Salisbury and indeed all who have the welfare of her

great Indian Empire at heart) that the Mohammedans should not think there is any feeling against them in consequence of the dreadful events in Turkey. It is and has been a hatred of race, and it has been most unfortunate to have brought religion into this whole question and thereby embittered everything so very much. The Christians in Crete are as savage as the Turks.

The Queen hopes the Viceroy will do what he can to dispel any feeling of the kind she above mentioned. . . .

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

CIMIEZ, 22nd March 1897.—In the afternoon drove with Victoria B[attenberg] and Louisa A[ntrim] to Beaulieu or rather to La Bastide, where we visited Lady Salisbury, who is staying there alone with her daughter. She has been there for nearly two months, and says she is much better, but she looks sadly altered. Took tea there.

26th March.—Left directly after luncheon at three with Beatrice for Cannes, which we reached in half an hour. Bertie and Louise met us at the station, and we drove to the Hôtel du Parc, to visit the Cumberlands and the Queen of Hanover. We went into the drawing-room, where we met the dear Queen, whom I had not seen for nineteen years, and she expressed much pleasure at seeing me again. Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone came in for a moment, both looking much aged, and she very shaky and much altered, but she seemed delighted to see me. Mrs. Drew was with her parents. I was rather tired, as I got out of railway and carriages no less than twelve times.

1st April.—After luncheon I saw Lord Salisbury, who was looking well, and said he was much better. We talked over the very critical state of affairs, and he said he thought all might have been settled but for the difficulties which had arisen in the Cabinet, viz. the opposition of Mr. Chamberlain and Sir M. Hicks Beach to doing anything against Greece, which of

course was annoying, as Lord Salisbury could not press the matter for fear of breaking up the Cabinet. The Duke of Devonshire and Lord Lansdowne had stood by Lord Salisbury. France was behaving very well. He expressed himself satisfied with affairs at home, and thought Mr. Balfour had done very well this year. The Education Bill having passed was a great thing, etc.

Sir Arthur Sullivan to the Prince of Wales.

VILLA MATHILDE, ST. JEAN DE VILLEFRANCHE, 1st April 1897.

SIR,—Your Royal Highness' unwavering kindness encourages me to approach you now for counsel and assistance in a matter which I have very much at heart. It has been my good fortune to be born and to have made my career during her Majesty's reign, and my life's work has been so directed that when the musical history of the reign is chronicled, my name should not be left out.

And now, Sir, I am eagerly desirous to associate myself with the coming celebration, by receiving the Queen's command to compose something special for this wondrous occasion. It would indeed be a labour of love, and I should be proud to receive such a recognition of the efforts I have made on behalf of English music. Should such an idea be favourably received by her Majesty, I would suggest that my work take the form of a *hymn tune*, to be sung at the service at St. Paul's with military band accompaniment, or a short "Domine salvam fac reginam"; but I think I could reach the *hearts of the people* best in a hymn tune, such a one as "Onward, Christian Soldiers."

My career, Sir, is nearer its end than its commencement. I have done many State and official commissions; but nothing in my career, and no State commission could make me work with heart and soul as the forthcoming glorious occasion would impel me to do. May I hope for your Royal Highness' help in the matter? Because without it I cannot venture to

look forward to the fulfilment of my heart's desire. I am, Sir, your Royal Highness' faithful and devoted servant, ARTHUR SULLIVAN.

Sir Arthur Bigge to Queen Victoria.

6th April 1897.—Sir Arthur Bigge humbly submits that he saw Sir A. Sullivan to-day, who quite understood your Majesty's wish that any hymn sung outside St. Paul's Cathedral should be set to a well-known popular tune. But he said he had heard that this was a *German Chorale* which he deplored. He suggests that your Majesty might be pleased to ask Bishop Walsham How to write a hymn for which he would compose the music.

The Bishop and he have worked together in this way before, and Sir A. Sullivan knows no one to whose writing he would have greater pleasure in composing than the Bishop of Wakefield. This hymn might be sung in the churches on 20th June.¹

[Telegram.] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

BERLIN, 3rd April 1897.—Am deeply grieved to hear that poor Lady Lascelles has just died after having been affected by a severe stroke of paralysis yesterday.

Hope you have rest and fine weather, both of which I am grievously in want of. WILLIAM I. R.

[Telegram.] *Sir Frank Lascelles to Queen Victoria.*

BERLIN, 4th April 1897.—Your Majesty's sympathy is a great solace to my afflicted family who, thank God, are in good health. LASCELLES.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

CIMIEZ, (?) 16th April 1897.—The Queen feels more and more anxious about the state of affairs in Crete and Greece, and thinks the Powers' Ambassa-

¹ This arrangement was made, and the hymn—words by Bishop Walsham How, music by Sir Arthur Sullivan—was sung in churches on 20th June

dors really becoming ridiculous, and the "Concert" is contemptible and very useless, to say the least. It would seem that a "Concert" within the useless Concert of six Powers will become at last inevitable. Should not we propose to Russia, Italy, and France to join [in] preventing this actual war between Greece and Turkey taking place, but absolving the others from any active part, if they would at least not interfere to prevent it? The Queen is sure it will have to come to this.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

17th April 1897.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully acknowledges your Majesty's letter.

The difficulty of making a combination of England, Russia, France, and Italy is that Russia, up to this time, has been most reluctant to part company with Austria and Germany. France of course will not act without Russia; and England could not act for any useful purpose with Italy alone.

The difficulty of the present position consists in these two facts: 1. Austria and Germany will not make a bridge of gold for Greece; on the contrary, they take pleasure in humiliating Greece. 2. Russia will not, as at present advised, divide Europe into two camps, leaving Austria and Germany on one side. Consequently, no measure having for its object to let down Greece easily has any present chance of being accepted.

M. Hanotaux¹ thinks the time is approaching rapidly when we shall be able to detach Russia from the Germans, and to act without them. It is quite possible; but when it happens a new set of difficulties will arise. The Turks are much less amenable to influence than they were, and will resist any attempt to gratify Greek desires; and especially will resist any attempt to insist that the Turkish troops shall retire. But without their retirement Crete cannot be pacified. Nothing will remain but to *force* them

¹ French Foreign Minister.

to retire. But who is to carry out such a measure ? All the Powers have refused either to make sufficient contributions of force to carry it out ; or to allow any one Power to do it. As long as they maintain this attitude of refusing either to act themselves or to allow anyone else to act, a deadlock must inevitably continue.

The Empress Frederick to Queen Victoria.

SCHLOSS FRIEDRICHSHOF, CRONBERG, 18th April 1897.

MY BELOVED MAMA,—I have just heard that Turkey has declared war and seven Greek columns crossed the Turkish frontier ! My alarm and anxiety know no bounds, *so far away* ! Without much news, without *anyone* who understands one's feelings and sympathises with one, it is dreadful. What Tino and Sophie are going through makes me quite miserable, and I cannot help them or be with them and share their troubles and dangers and perhaps make myself of a little use ! . . .

What *my* feelings are when I read of the encouragement given to Turkey by Germany and the *German officers* in the Turkish Army, you can imagine ! The three Emperors are all agreed and on the *wrong* tack, and it grieves me bitterly to think that dear England is so bound and so tied down that she cannot act as she would wish. Alas, William's personal hatred to Greece and enmity to the King and whole Royal family is well known everywhere, and does not improve matters. The Turks are a fearful foe (not for Russians or European troops) but for the Greeks. They are like wild beasts in their cruelty, there is not a Greek who has not *some* record in his family that has been handed down from generation to generation of this awful *cruelty* suffered at their hands ! There will be no more sleep for me now for days ! . . . Oh, if Fritz had been spared, *all* this would never have happened ! Germany would have mediated and appeased, and England could have gone hand in hand with her ! ! . . . Ever your most dutiful and devoted much distressed daughter, VICTORIA.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

LA BASTIDE, BEAULIEU, 18th April 1897.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—I deeply feel for the Queen's anxiety. But the matter has passed now beyond the province of diplomacy. War having been duly declared in all form, neither side can make overtures for peace until the fortune of arms has been tried : they would hold themselves dishonoured in the eyes of their own subjects if they did so.

I do not think any of the Royal Family are in any danger. The Duke of Sparta is in the position of a General, and therefore exposed to little personal risk. The King, if really pressed at Athens, will always be able to take refuge on board H.M.S. *Nile*. Yours very truly, SALISBURY.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

CIMIEZ, 19th April 1897.—Sixteen years since my kind friend Lord Beaconsfield died.

After luncheon saw Lord Salisbury. I expressed to him my great anxiety at the state of affairs, and stated that I thought it would become necessary for us to take action regardless of Germany (who has been behaving so ill), in order to stop further bloodshed. Lord Salisbury said the time was coming when we should have to break away from Germany and Austria, but not quite yet. He feared Greece would be defeated, which we could not allow. I said it was important we should work well with Russia, which he is also anxious should be the case.

22nd April.—At half-past six the celebrated and famous actress Sarah Bernhardt, who has been acting at Nice and is staying in this hotel, performed a little piece for me in the drawing-room at her own request. The play was called *Jean Marie*, by Adrien Fleuriet, quite short, only lasting half an hour. It is extremely touching, and Sarah Bernhardt's acting was quite marvellous, so pathetic and full of feeling. She appeared much affected herself, tears rolling

down her cheeks. She has a most beautiful voice, and is very graceful in all her movements. The story is much the same as that of "Auld Robin Gray." The two who acted with her were also excellent, particularly the one who took the part of Jean Marie. When the play was over, Edith L. presented Sarah Bernhardt to me, and I spoke to her for a few moments. Her manner was most pleasing and gentle. She said it had been such a pleasure and honour to act for me. When I expressed the hope that she was not tired, she answered, "Cela m'a reposée."

23rd April.—Beatrice, when I came home, brought me the sad news of the sudden death of the Dowager Duchess of Bedford,¹ which I am very grieved at. We were children together, and she had been one of my bridesmaids as well as my Mistress of the Robes and extra Lady-in-Waiting. Am very distressed for poor Lady Ermyntrude [Malet].

We were much shocked to hear that an attempt had been made on the life of the King of Italy, the man jumping on top of his carriage and trying to stab him. He was knocked down and at once seized, the King escaping unhurt.

24th April.—Before dinner received the distressing news of the defeat of the poor Greeks. It makes me very unhappy. Telegraphed to Lord Salisbury to press that something should be done. He answered that he intends proposing a Conference at Paris, of the Ambassadors, to agree on the terms of an armistice. Feel so distressed for poor Vicky, Sophy, and Alix.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

LA BASTIDE, BEAULIEU, 24th April 1897.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—I took yesterday morning the only course in the direction of pacification which it was possible for me to take. I proposed to Russia to hold a conference of Ambassadors at Paris to propose terms of peace to the belligerents, and I informed the

¹ Widow of the 9th Duke; mother of the present Duke, and of Lady Ermyntrude Malet.

other Courts of the proposal. I am now waiting for the answer. This is the utmost that can by any possibility be done. The belligerents *may* listen to the advice of the six Powers, if the Powers can be induced to give it. But what chance is there that the representations of England alone addressed to Turkey will induce the Sultan to recall the General and the army who are winning victories in the plains of Pharsalia? For two years the Sultan has been taught by public denunciation to look on England as his bitterest enemy. It is impossible she should retain any influence over him. The slight, the only, chance we have of affecting the present conflict is through the action of the other Powers. In short, to put it plainly, Russia is the only Power that can speak to Turkey in the language of command, because Russia is the only Power that has a large army upon his frontier.

I send you a telegram I have just received from Monson, which will show you that even France is very doubtful of being able to persuade Russia to act. . . .

Sir Arthur Bigge to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[Copy.]

CIMIEZ, 24th April 1897.

DEAR LORD SALISBURY,—The Queen desires me to thank you for your letter of this evening, and to say how cordially she approves of your proposal to Russia for a conference of the Powers at Paris; indeed, H.M. considers that nothing better could have been suggested!

The Queen would be glad to know what you think of the advisability of her telegraphing to the Emperor of Russia (I suppose through Sir N. O'Connor), appealing to him to exert his influence to terminate the war. H.M. is prepared to do so with your concurrence. Yours very truly, A. BIGGE.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

[25th April 1897.]—I think that a message from the Queen to the Tsar urging him to do what he could for the restoration of peace would be very valuable just now.

I have received the enclosed from Monson, and am telegraphing to offer [to] join France and Russia, as the original guarantors of Greece after Navarino, in urging an armistice at Athens and Constantinople. It seems useless to wait for the assent of Germany. Yours very truly, SALISBURY.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

CIMIEZ, 25th April 1897.—Heard from Georgie that May had given birth to a little girl,¹ both doing well. It is strange that this child should be born on dear Alice's birthday, whilst the last was on the anniversary of her death.

[Telegram.] Mr. Egerton² to Queen Victoria.

ATHENS, 25th April 1897.—H.R.H. the Crown Princess is deeply touched by your Majesty's loving sympathy. She is terribly worried and anxious, and tries to keep up, though low-spirited. EGERTON.

Queen Victoria to the Emperor of Russia.

[Cypher Telegram.]

25th April 1897.—I most earnestly appeal to you to use all your powerful influence to bring about an armistice and terminate this disastrous war which, I am sure, must distress you as much as it does me. I earnestly trust that you will be able to agree to Lord Salisbury's proposal for joint action with you and France.

Sir Nicholas O'Connor to Queen Victoria.

[Cypher Telegram.]

27th April 1897.—. . . I had the honour to hand the Queen's message to the Emperor at seven o'clock and his Majesty said that he fully shared the Queen's desire to bring the war, which distressed him greatly, to an end. His Majesty had no objection to a con-

¹ Now the Princess Royal, Countess of Harewood.

² British Minister in Athens; afterwards Sir Edward Egerton, and Ambassador in Rome.

ference with the Ambassadors at Paris, but he suggested that it would perhaps be more efficacious if the Cabinets of England, Russia, and France, as guaranteeing Powers, considered directly between them the terms of peace, while at the same time using their influence to bring about an armistice. His Majesty welcomed the idea of the three Powers working together for the re-establishment of peace, and authorised me to telegraph in the above sense to the Queen.¹

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

LA BASTIDE, BEAULIEU, 27th April 1897.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—I have telegraphed to the Admiralty and to Mr. Egerton about the *Nile*.

The Greeks are a contemptible race, and I have no doubt will turn upon the King and blame him for the policy which they themselves, the Greek mobs, forced upon him. I hope they will be too much cowed to proceed to extremities. Yours very truly, SALISBURY.

The Queen's telegram to the Emperor of Russia appears to have produced a very salutary effect.

Sir Arthur Bigge to Mr. Egerton.

27th April 1897.—Queen wishes you to know that the *Nile* was ordered to Phalerum in consequence of her suggestion that a man-of-war should go to Piræus in case of any danger to Royal Family. BIGGE.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

BEAULIEU, 28th April 1897.—Lord Salisbury's humble duty to your Majesty. He has accepted the Emperor's proposal, and is waiting for the Emperor to indicate the mode of consultation. M. Hanotaux seems quite willing. Lord Salisbury expects to see someone from him to-morrow morning in Paris. He hopes to be in London to-morrow evening.

The doctor is encouraging with respect to Lady Salisbury's journey.

¹ The Queen described this in her Journal as "a very satisfactory answer."

*Queen Victoria to the King of the Hellenes.**[Cypher Telegram.]*

3rd May 1897.—As a true and affectionate friend, I would most earnestly urge that unless the Greek Government recalls Col. Vassos and his force, and expresses its willingness to be guided by the advice of the Powers, it will be impossible for the Powers to intervene or mediate. Even those most favourable to Greece could not do so.¹

*Queen Victoria to the Princess of Wales.**[Cypher Telegram.]*

3rd May 1897.—I have sent the following earnest appeal² to Willy, and I entreat you to support it as the only possible means of obtaining an armistice.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 3rd May 1897.—Saw Lord Salisbury. Talked of many matters, the chief topic being the terrible war between Greece and Turkey. He said nothing could be done, as Russia had backed out, Nicky having evidently yielded to Mouravieff and pressure from Germany. France could not act without Russia.

5th May.—Beatrice brought me in a telegram at breakfast from Sir E. Monson, saying it was feared poor Sophie Alençon had perished in a great fire at Paris. Afterwards she read me some details in the papers of the terrible catastrophe,³ which is more horrible than can be described, and has cost many lives amongst the highest in Parisian society. Re-

¹ The main portion of the draft is in Lord Salisbury's handwriting, but the Queen has herself written, in pencil, the introductory words down to "urge that."

² The reference is to the above telegram to King George ("Willy").

³ It was at a Charity Bazaar, held in a hall in the rue Jean-Goujon, that the fire broke out, in a street representing Old Paris shops, filled with stallholders and visitors, mostly belonging to aristocratic families. The whole building was reduced to ashes in a few minutes; upwards of 200 persons were burnt to death, including the Duchesse d'Alençon, sister of the Empress of Austria, and many others were seriously injured and subsequently succumbed.

ceived a heartbroken telegram from poor Alençon announcing that his *bien-aimée* Sophie had lost her life in yesterday's fearful catastrophe. Later on I had another from Sir E. Monson saying her remains had been identified. It is too shocking to think of. Leila E[rrroll], Louisa Buccleuch, Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain, Sir F. and Lady Edwards, Lord Bagot, Sir H. Ewart, and Mr. Muther dined.

Mr. Chamberlain talked a great deal about South Africa and the Colonies, and hoped there would be no war, but that the state of affairs was anxious. He thought Mr. Rhodes, and still more Mr. Jameson, came the best out of the South African Committee enquiry, but that the Germans had behaved very ill. He was sure that the Transvaal would ultimately come back to us, as it could not help doing so, whatever we might wish. It was to be hoped this would happen peacefully and not by a war.

[*Télégramme.*] *President Faure to Queen Victoria.*

PARIS ELYSÉE, 5 Mai 1897.—Je remercie votre Majesté des témoignages de si vive sympathie qu'elle veut bien m'adresser. La France sera touchée de la part que votre Majesté veut bien prendre au deuil si cruel qui vient de nous frapper. FÉLIX FAURE.

[*Cypher Telegram.*] *Mr. Egerton to Queen Victoria.*

5th May 1897.—Humble duty. Following answer received from the King of Greece to your Majesty's telegram of May 3rd.

"I am extremely thankful to the Queen for the kind interest which her Majesty shows me at this moment. Her Majesty's wish to see recalled Colonel Vassos and his men has already had its beginning, as he and a part of his people have been recalled. For the rest, I am convinced this will be done little by little, as we have to deal with a very excitable public, and must be very careful. But I trust, if the Powers would intervene spontaneously between the two countries, this would strengthen the decision of the

Government in doing what is necessary in order to restore order and peace."

The Princess of Wales to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

6th May 1897.—Thanks so much. Just received this from Greece dated yesterday. "Had already acted on the Queen's advice though without result, as to-day again terrible battle at Velestino, Turks repulsed, fear to-morrow they will attack Tino,¹ God help us."

Dearest Mama, can you and Emperor of Russia now insist on armistice or peace? Do not allow them to be crushed entirely by overwhelming forces, as they have taken the first steps by recalling Vassos. Now the Powers must for humanity's sake step in to save them from utter ruin and revolution at Athens. No time must be lost.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 7th May 1897.—When Beatrice came to breakfast she again brought in some very sad news, a telegram from Clémentine,² saying: "Mon bien-aimé frère Aumale est mort cette nuit d'une attaque de cœur. Plains-moi." He died in Sicily, at his place near Palermo, and from a later Reuter telegram it seems that it was from the result of the shock of hearing of poor Sophie Alençon's tragic death. Dreadfully sad; and I am greatly grieved. He was a most charming, very well-informed, clever, large-minded, and agreeable man. He wrote very well, and was so kind and generous to his whole family, by whom he was greatly beloved. He had been planning that all the members of his family, old and young, were to assemble at Chantilly to celebrate Clémentine's eightieth birthday. And now! She was talking so much about it, when I saw her lately at Cimiez.

¹ Duke of Sparta, afterwards King Constantine of the Hellenes.

² Princess Augustus of Coburg, daughter of King Louis Philippe. Duc d'Aumale was her brother, and Duc d'Alençon her nephew.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 7th May 1897.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty gratefully acknowledges your Majesty's kind and gracious note. He hopes that the King of Greece is now in no real danger; and that the dynasty is safe. The Greeks seem to feel that the three Emperors, who are not friendly to them, will be made still more bitter if a republic is established in Greece. But the conduct of the Greeks in refusing to ask for mediation is fatuous.

The disaster at Paris is an overwhelming horror. In all its circumstances it is more terrible than anything which has happened in this century.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

WINDSOR CASTLE, 7th May 1897.—By this telegram it is clear that every hour increases the necessity for an armistice, and I am much inclined to send following telegram to Emperor William, who has always shown respect for my advice: "For the sake of humanity an armistice must be proposed without delay, or thousands of lives will be sacrificed. Do what you can to urge the Powers to propose this for both contending parties. You have always expressed great regard for my advice; let me therefore urge this on you."

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

7th May 1897.—Humble duty. Entirely concur in your Majesty's proposed telegram to German Emperor.

[*Telegram.*] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

SCHLOSS, BERLIN, 8th May 1897.—The Powers have arranged that the proposal of an armistice must be begged for by Greece with the promise that she will unconditionally submit to the verdict of the Powers before they intervene; a *conditio sine qua non* is that Greece immediately recalls her troops

from Crete, and accepts the fact of the autonomy of that island. Until Greece has expressed her will to fulfil the above-named conditions, intervention is out of the question.

I think the Russian Government most fit to take the lead in this matter. WILLIAM I. R.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 8th May 1897.—More letters came in, sent by M. de Courcel, about this horrible tragedy. Everything one hears makes it worse. Of poor Sophie's remains only the head was found, and that was much disfigured.

Received a rude answer from William, sent *en clair*, whilst my telegram was in cypher. Saw Sir A. Bigge, and told him to go at once to Lord Salisbury about it.

9th May.—Had another urgent appeal from poor little Sophy, and answered that nothing could be done by us alone, that Greece must yield to the conditions of the Powers. Telegraphed also in the same sense to the King. Lord Salisbury let me know it was impossible to do anything, as Germany and Austria were obstinate and virtually commanded the situation, which is most irritating.

Mr. Buchanan¹ to Sir Arthur Bigge.

[Cypher Telegram.]

8th May 1897.—Following received from the Empress Frederick for the Queen. "Things in Greece worse than ever! Think intervention absolutely necessary without waiting for it to be asked for by Greece. No time should be lost! Could not England offer the King to assist in reorganising?"

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Bigge.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 9th May 1897 (noon).

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR.—If I decypher the telegram aright, the Empress Frederick urges that Eng-

¹ Chargé d'Affaires at Darmstadt; afterwards Sir George Buchanan, and British Ambassador in St. Petersburg at the time of the Russian Revolution.

land should help King George in reorganising his army. But this would be joining in the war. You would find very few people in this country whose Hellenic sympathies would carry them to this extremity.

I understand that both Germany and Austria insist that Greece shall consent to recall the troops from Crete, and to defer generally to the unanimous advice of the Powers; and that until she does this they will not join in the mediation.

I urged very strongly on the French Government that we should, in conjunction with Russia, take the first steps towards intervention, leaving Germany and Austria outside, for the moment. The Emperor of Russia proposed the same thing himself about the same time. But he afterwards withdrew it; and France has most energetically resisted it. Intervention therefore without the consent of Germany and Austria is not difficult, it is quite *impossible*. Our isolated action, avowedly not supported by the rest, would not have the faintest effect on the Sultan's action; and intervention simply means persuading the Sultan to arrest, and ultimately to withdraw his army.

What the Empress Frederick asks for is impossible and unattainable until her son consents. Yours very truly, SALISBURY.

Queen Victoria to Mr. Egerton.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

(?) 9th May 1897.—Please convey following to King of Greece from Queen:

"You know how deeply I feel for you, your children, and your country. I have done all in my power to obtain easier terms for you but without success. But under the sad circumstances I see no alternative but to accept the terms laid down by the Powers, which make a *sine qua non* of immediate recall of your troops from Crete. For the sake of humanity I now urge you to yield. I grieve for you all."

[*Cypher Telegram.*] *Mr. Egerton to Sir Arthur Bigge.*

10th May 1897.—The King told me to convey his Majesty's thanks to the Queen for her Majesty's message and constant acts of kindness.

In answer his Majesty says orders have been given for the withdrawal from Crete of troops, and autonomy of Island will be recognised; and his Majesty hopes that Commanders of blockading force will be speedily ordered to allow Greek vessels to go to Crete to bring the troops away, and that there be no delay in mediation to prevent further bloodshed in Thessaly.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

20 ARLINGTON STREET, S.W., 10th May 1897.

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—Orders are being sent to-night to Admiral Harris to give to Hellenic ships access to Crete for the purpose of bringing away Greek troops.

We understand that the Greek Government have very much altered their proposed note in order to meet the views of the Emperor William; but we do not yet know whether in fact he *is* satisfied.

The worst part of it is that neither he nor, I believe, the Sultan are willing to consent to an armistice *until* the preliminaries of peace are settled. And whether that will be a rapid process or no, I cannot predict. Yours very truly, SALISBURY.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 13th May 1897.—Received another grandiloquent telegram, also *en clair*, from William.

[*Telegram.*] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

S.S. D'URVILLE, 13th May 1897.—With reference to your telegram of the 8th. I am happy to be able to communicate to you that, after the King and the Government had begged for my intervention through Sophy, and after having officially notified to my Minister and again through Sophy to me personally

that they unconditionally accepted the conditions I had proposed, I have ordered Baron v. Plessen to take the necessary steps to restore peace in conjunction with the representatives of the other Powers.

WILLIAM I. R.

Lord Brassey¹ to Queen Victoria.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MELBOURNE, 30th March 1897.—. . . Attention is for the time being centred on the Convention now sitting in Adelaide. The telegram received from the Queen Empress was received with enthusiasm by the delegates. It seems probable that Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, and Queensland will enter into a federation for defence, and later form a Zollverein.

Mr. Barton of New South Wales will perhaps be the first Premier of the Federation. He is able, moderate, and loyal to the Empire. The invitation, received in the name of the Queen Empress, to the several Premiers of Australasia has been highly appreciated by the people of this colony. . . .

In conclusion Lord Brassey desires to express the earnest hope that the fullest measure of health and strength may be granted to your Majesty through the memorable Diamond Jubilee, which will be most loyally celebrated in Victoria.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 18th May 1897.—Beatrice brought me the sad news that the dear Duchess of Atholl² had passed away. It is too grievous, she was so strong and active that I hoped she had still many years to live. She looked more like sixty than eighty-two, and was so full of life and fun. I had known her since the year 1842, when we first went to Scotland, and got to know her well when we stayed at Blair in '44. In '52 she became Mistress of the Robes till

¹ Governor of Victoria, 1895–1900 ; created Earl Brassey, 1911.

² Widow of the 6th Duke.

December of that year. Then in '54 she became Lady-in-Waiting, which she remained up to now. She is a very great loss to me, as she was such a true friend.

Heard the good news that hostilities had ceased, owing to the interposition of Nicky.

[*Copy.*] *Sir Arthur Bigge to Sir Matthew Ridley.*

WINDSOR CASTLE, 20th May 1897.

MY DEAR SIR MATTHEW,—Would it be possible to do anything to try and guard against accidents happening on the 22nd June through overcrowding the roofs of the poorer classes of houses, especially on the south side of the river? Naturally people will endeavour to realise as much profit as they can by letting seats and standing room on the tops of their houses, and one hears gloomy forebodings of what may happen in consequence.

I cannot imagine anything which would more distress the Queen than any accident, and if an official assurance could be conveyed to her Majesty that every possible step will be taken to guard against such an eventuality it would cause great satisfaction to her Majesty. Yours very truly, ARTHUR BIGGE.

Sir Matthew Ridley to Sir Fleetwood Edwards.

Confidential.

HOME DEPARTMENT, 23rd May (1897).

MY DEAR SIR FLEETWOOD,—. . . I know from Bigge that the Queen is anxious to know that everything that is possible is being done to prevent accidents from the insecurity of the roofs and parapets of the poorer houses along the royal Jubilee route. Pray assure the Queen that the Chief Commissioner of Police is in constant communication with the officers of the London County Council on the subject, and that every possible care is being taken. There are no such direct legal powers in regard to this point as exist in regard to stands or balconies, but no precaution shall be omitted which the watchfulness and anxiety of all the authorities can take. Yours truly, M. W. RIDLEY.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 24th May 1897.—A fine morning. Dear Beatrice came in to me early, as usual on this day. My poor old birthday again came round, and it seems sadder each year, though I have such cause for thankfulness, and to be as well as I am, but fresh sorrow and trials still come upon me. My great lameness, etc., makes me feel how age is creeping on. Seventy-eight is a good age, but I pray yet to be spared a little longer for the sake of my country and dear ones.

Before breakfast the little children, Lenchen and Beatrice, gave me flowers and took me to my birthday table, which was covered with presents. I received some lovely things. Beatrice gave me such a pretty water-colour sketch, done by herself, of the place in front of the Monastery at Cimiez, bringing in the old cross. Innumerable kind letters and telegrams. Got out very late with Lenchen, Beatrice, and the two eldest children. On coming home the telegrams began to pour in in a most extraordinary manner, and this continued till late at night, not only from all relations, connections, and friends, but from all sorts of individuals, Public Bodies, Societies, etc.

25th May.—Leopold of Belgium arrived about twelve, and I went down to meet him in the drawing-room. He came specially to congratulate me on my birthday; and I had begged him to come to-day instead of yesterday, as there was so much to do. He brought me a most splendid erection of orchids, one can hardly call it a bouquet, which he had brought from Belgium. After luncheon sat talking some time with him on various subjects. He then took leave, and was going on to Glasgow.

Sir William Baillie-Hamilton¹ to Sir Arthur Bigge.

COLONIAL OFFICE, 28th May 1897.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—I have communicated to Mr. Chamberlain the purport of our conversation on

¹ Then Chief Clerk of the Colonial Office

Wednesday respecting Lord Roberts' appointment.¹

Mr. Chamberlain has since seen Lord Lansdowne, who he understands is in communication with H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught on the subject; and under these circumstances it appears to him that it is not necessary for him to take any further action in the matter at present.

But he desires to add that he attaches the utmost importance to the character of the reception given to these Colonial troops. They represent the forces of the Empire outside India and the United Kingdom. It is most desirable that the Colonies should be encouraged to increase these forces, and to identify them with the general defences of the Empire; and H.M.'s Government are most anxious that their visit to this country at the expense of the Colonies should be recognised by the Home authorities as a most significant event which may have large consequences in the future.

It is in this view, and not on their intrinsic merits or their numbers, that Mr. Chamberlain has asked the War Office to designate as their Honorary Commander some Officer of high rank and widely appreciated reputation. Yours very truly, W. A. BAILLIE-HAMILTON.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

HATFIELD, 5th June 1897.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully submits (in another box) his list of honours proposed for your Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. He is conscious that they are voluminous. It could hardly be otherwise, the occasion is so unique and the pressure from all sides is so great. But he has tried, successfully, to keep the hereditary honours within moderate compass. The baronetcies are not more numerous than they were at the Jubilee ten years ago; and the peerages are less numerous.

There are only two points to which your Majesty's attention ought specially to be drawn. They concern

¹ As the Commander of the Colonial forces coming to attend the Diamond Jubilee



The Rev. Geo. W. P. Comstock

the admission to your Majesty's Privy Council. At the instance of Mr. Chamberlain Lord Salisbury has submitted to your Majesty that eleven Colonial Prime Ministers should be admitted to the Privy Council. The proposal is no doubt without precedent ; but the occasion is quite unique ; and the admission to the Privy Council of the Colonial Prime Ministers is singularly appropriate to it. Nothing can mark the character and results of your Majesty's happy reign more conspicuously than that the statesmen who administer the vast territories which have been converted into civilised and powerful communities during your Majesty's reign, should take their seats at your Majesty's Council Board. Lord Salisbury therefore respectfully and strongly urges on your Majesty the acceptance of this proposal.

There is another matter, of less importance, connected with the Privy Council. Lord Salisbury is informed that your Majesty's objection to the admission of Mr. G. Watts to the Privy Council that he makes pictures on order for private customers is no longer true ; and that he has given this practice up. But the reason why Lord Salisbury, with great respect, submits this matter again to your Majesty's consideration is that he is accused of never submitting to your Majesty any honour in favour of Art ; and that many people are alienated by this consideration. Lord Salisbury knows no selection by which a proper tribute to Art could be more innocuously paid ; and therefore he ventures to submit the recommendation again for your Majesty's gracious decision.¹

The Earl of Aberdeen to Queen Victoria.

CAR VICTORIA, NEAR QUEBEC, 5th June 1897.—. . . Mr. Laurier sailed for England from New York this morning in the steamship *Lucania*. The visit of the Canadian Premier in response to the invitation of

¹ The recommendation was not approved, as the Queen maintained her view of the unsuitability of rewarding success in Art by a Privy Councillorship.

your Majesty's Government has evoked, very naturally, a large amount of interest, and it is regarded as a compliment to the whole country. It is viewed with the more satisfaction because of the general feeling that Mr. Laurier's personal qualifications for the part he is thus called upon to fulfil on this unique occasion are of no mean order. This impression, Lord Aberdeen would venture to add, may be regarded as well founded. Mr. Laurier is a man of high personal character and reputation. He has also an air of culture and distinction, and not only so, but he seems to possess a faculty of attracting in a remarkable degree a feeling of personal and even affectionate regard from a wide circle of people.

Madame Laurier also is a very agreeable person, and has filled her position as wife of the Premier with grace and dignity. Although of course speaking English with ease and fluency, it may be said, at least of Madame Laurier, that, as in the case of most French Canadians, opportunities of conversing in French seem to be appreciated.

Lord Aberdeen would beg to mention that he had to-day at Quebec the pleasure of inspecting and bidding farewell to the Canadian contingent of the Jubilee representation of Colonial Forces. The Canadian contingent numbers 200. . . .

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 15th June 1897.—Fine morning, but rather cold. Out with Lenchen and went to Clachenturn, where I got out to see good Annie Macdonald. She was a good deal upset at the thought of not being able to return with me to Windsor. She is, I fear, very ill and very weak, but one must still hope she may regain her strength and possibly, though I scarcely think so, come to Windsor to direct things and show where they are. The trouble about arranging things for the Jubilee still continues.

It is nine years to-day since our beloved Fritz was taken. What a calamity it was for the whole of

Europe, as well as for his own country ! One feels it now more and more.

The Prince of Wales to Queen Victoria.

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, 19th June 1897.

MY DEAREST MAMA,—I cannot describe how touched I am by your great kindness in appointing me on the occasion of your Jubilee Grand Master of your great and distinguished Order of the Bath. I feel it as a very high honour, and having succeeded dear Papa after an interval of so many years.

I am so glad that you made a point of making Edward Weimar a Field-Marshal, as I know how greatly he will appreciate it. The honours you intend conferring on my gentlemen have greatly gratified me, and will please them immensely.

These gales of wind are most unfortunate ; Walde-mar who has just arrived from Flushing said it was terrific, and hopes Vicky will not attempt to leave till it subsides.

I have seen Sir F. Edwards and mentioned several matters to him, which I shall be delighted to undertake in your name so as to save you fatigue, such as receiving Addresses and distributing the medals to the Indian and Colonial troops, which I will gladly do in your name. Hoping to see you on Monday, I remain, your devoted and affectionate son, BERTIE.

Bishop Davidson to Queen Victoria.

FARNHAM CASTLE, 19th June 1897.

MADAM,—Although I am aware how your Majesty must at present be overwhelmed with the multitude of responsible duties and anxieties which the occasion brings, I should fail to do justice to my own feelings did I not ask your Majesty to let me, with my humble duty, add one more to the loyal felicitations of to-morrow's great anniversary.

I have to-day been reading afresh the copy your Majesty allowed me ten years ago to make of the journal written by your Majesty on 20th June 1837, and the pathos and deep significance of its connection

with the celebration of the next few days are such as can I think be rarely equalled in history.

The thanksgivings which will to-morrow go up to God from millions are no artificial or conventional thing, and I suppose it is rare indeed in such national thanksgivings that the warmest and the heartiest should be evoked from those who have the fullest means of knowledge, and who are able therefore to give to their prayers and thanksgivings a more personal colour. Such is, however, the fact, beyond all question, among those who have been allowed to serve your Majesty in a direct and personal way at Windsor and elsewhere.

To myself this coming week is fraught with memories so prized, of all your Majesty's goodness to me for more than fourteen years, that I have never in my life felt anything to be more real, more inspiring, more natural or more "right" in the truest sense than the glad jubulations with which the heart of the whole people is full to overflowing.

That our Father in Heaven may for many years to come preserve your Majesty to reign over a grateful, a loyal, and a united people is the deep, the continuous, and heartfelt prayer of your Majesty's obedient humble servant, RANDALL WINTON.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 20th June 1897.—This eventful day, 1897, has opened, and I pray God to help and protect me as He has hitherto done during these sixty long eventful years! I feel sad at the new losses I have sustained, especially the last one of our beloved Liko! God will surely help me on! How well I remember this day sixty years ago, when I was called from my bed by dear Mama to receive the news of my accession!¹

Dear Vicky arrived and came to breakfast, after having been tossing about all yesterday at anchor. Beatrice (all in white), as well as Ella and Irène, also breakfasted with us. Afterwards Lenchen, Louise and Arthur and Louischen came in, and they all gave

¹ See First Series, vol. i, pp. 96-99.

me a beautiful diamond *sautoir* chain in which Affie, Marie, Helen, Christian, and Lorne also joined. The two dates and crown formed the snap. Vicky then brought me her present, a paperweight of chrysoprase with my cypher in diamonds.

At eleven I, with all my family, went to St. George's Chapel, where a short touching service took place. We sat facing the altar, with the suites behind us. In the stalls were the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, Lord and Lady Cadogan, Lord Rosebery, Sir A. and Lady Bigge, and a few others. The Dean officiated, assisted by the Canons. The service began with the hymn, "Now thank we all our God," followed by some of the usual morning prayers. Dear Albert's beautiful *Te Deum* was sung, and the special prayer for Accession Day followed, with a few others. Then came the pretty and appropriate hymn, of which the words were specially written by the Bishop of Wakefield¹ and the music composed by Sir A. Sullivan, after which another special collect was said. This very impressive but simple service concluded with the National Anthem, which all joined in singing. I was much touched and overcome, especially when all my children and grandchildren came up to me and I kissed them, just as I did ten years ago at Westminster Abbey. How many of my dear ones have gone since then!

From the Chapel drove down to Frogmore with Louise and Beatrice, and remained sitting there some little time. Christian, Thora, Christle, and Abby^a were at lunch, besides all the others. Afterwards the whole family, excepting Vicky, went down to St. George's Chapel, where Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise* was performed in the Nave. Mme Albani came down on purpose to sing in it. At five, all, excepting Vicky and Lenchen, left for London. Felt rather nervous about the coming days, and that all should go off well.

¹ The Bishop died within a couple of months, "a most charming, excellent man," as the Queen described him in her Journal.

² Younger son of Prince Christian, afterwards Duke of Holstein ;
d. Ma 1881

Mr. Goschen to Queen Victoria.

ADMIRALTY, 20th June 1897.—Mr. Goschen, with his humble duty, begs to be allowed, as one of the oldest of your Majesty's servants, to be among the first who offer their heartfelt congratulations to your Majesty on this memorable day.

Mr. Goschen has received so much kindness from your Majesty during more than thirty years that personal affection associates itself in his heart with those feelings of loyal devotion and deep admiration which are moving your Majesty's happy subjects to eloquent expressions of attachment in all parts of your dominions.

Mr. Goschen prays that your Majesty may continue to enjoy in full measure every blessing which Providence can bestow on a Sovereign so universally beloved.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE, 21st June 1897.—The 10th anniversary of the celebration of my fifty years Jubilee. Breakfasted with my three daughters at the Cottage at Frogmore. A fine warm morning.

At quarter to twelve we drove to the station to start for London. The town was very prettily decorated, and there were great crowds, who cheered very much. At Paddington I was received by Lord Cork, Lord Emlyn, Sir N. Kingscote, Mr. Murdoch, and the other Directors of the G.W.R. Drove with Vicky, Lenchen, and Beatrice, going at a fast pace to the Paddington Vestry platform, where an address was presented by the Vicar of Paddington. Then we proceeded at a slow trot, with a Sovereign's escort of the 1st Life Guards. Passed through dense crowds, who gave me a most enthusiastic reception. It was like a triumphal entry. We passed down Cambridge Terrace, under a lovely arch, bearing the motto, "Our hearts thy Throne." The streets were beautifully decorated, also the balconies of the houses with flowers, flags, and draperies of every hue. At Edgware Road there were two more very fine arches. The

streets, the windows, the roofs of the houses, were one mass of beaming faces, and the cheers never ceased. On entering the park, through the Marble Arch, the crowd was even greater, carriages were drawn up amongst the people on foot, even on the pretty little lodges well-dressed people were perched. Hyde Park Corner and Constitution Hill were densely crowded. All vied with one another to give me a heartfelt, loyal, and affectionate welcome. I was deeply touched and gratified. The day had become very fine and very hot.

Reached the Palace shortly after 1, and Vicky at once brought me her three daughters, Charlotte, Vicky and Mossy, and Adolph. Whilst I was resting, Ernie, Ducky, Ella, Serge, and Victoria B[attenberg] came in bringing me a beautiful diamond pendant with sapphires, and the date in Slavonic characters on it. Vicky, her girls, and Beatrice lunched with me. Directly afterwards, Augusta and Fritz Strelitz, Mary (wonderfully recovered), Franz Teck and their two sons, came to present me with a very handsome book-cover. Bertie, Alix, and their two daughters, and Charles of Denmark gave me a beautiful diamond brooch. Then I was taken round in my wheeled chair to the Bow Room, where all my family awaited me, including Marie Coburg, whom I had not yet seen. Seated in my chair, as I cannot stand long, I received all the foreign Princes in succession, beginning with the Archduke Franz Ferdinand.¹ Bertie presented them all to me, after which Lord Salisbury presented all the special Ambassadors and Envoys. The Prince of Persia gave me a picture of the present Shah, in a very handsome frame. I got back to my room a little before four, quite exhausted. Telegrams kept pouring in. It was quite impossible even to open them. Had tea in the garden with Lenchen. Affie came and brought me his dear little granddaughter.

Dressed for dinner. I wore a dress of which the whole front was embroidered in gold, which had been

¹ The heir to the Austrian throne, whose murder at Serajevo, on 28th June 1914, brought on the Great War.

specially worked in India, diamonds in my cap, and a diamond necklace, etc. The dinner was in the Supper-room at little tables of twelve each. All the family, foreign royalties, special Ambassadors and Envoys were invited. I sat between the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and the Prince of Naples. After dinner went into Ball-room, where my private band played and the following were presented to me : the Colonial Premiers with their wives, the Special Envoys, the three Indian Princes, and all the officers of the two Indian escorts, who, as usual, held out their swords to be touched by me, and the different foreign suites. The Ball-room was very full and dreadfully hot, and the light very inefficient. It was only a little after eleven, when I got back to my room, feeling very tired. There was a deal of noise in the streets, and we were told that many were sleeping out in the parks.

22nd June.—A never-to-be-forgotten day. No one ever, I believe, has met with such an ovation as was given to me, passing through those six miles of streets, including Constitution Hill. The crowds were quite indescribable, and their enthusiasm truly marvellous and deeply touching. The cheering was quite deafening, and every face seemed to be filled with real joy. I was much moved and gratified.

The night had been very hot, and I was rather restless. There was such a noise going on the whole time, but it did not keep me from getting some sleep. Dull early and close. Breakfasted with Vicky, Lenchen, and Beatrice in the Chinese luncheon room. The head of the procession, including the Colonial troops, had unfortunately already passed the Palace before I got to breakfast, but there were still a great many, chiefly British, passing. I watched them for a little while. At a quarter-past eleven, the others being seated in their carriages long before, and having preceded me a short distance, I started from the State entrance in an open State landau, drawn by eight creams, dear Alix, looking very pretty in lilac, and Lenchen sitting opposite me. I felt a good deal

agitated, and had been so all these days, for fear anything might be forgotten or go wrong. Bertie and George C. rode one on each side of the carriage, Arthur (who had charge of the whole military arrangements) a little in the rear. My escort was formed from the 2nd Life Guards and officers of the native Indian regiments, these latter riding immediately in front of my carriage. Guard of Honour of Blue-jackets, the Guards, and the 2nd West Surrey Regiment (Queen's) were mounted in the Quadrangle and outside the Palace.

Before leaving I touched an electric button, by which I started a message which was telegraphed throughout the whole Empire. It was the following : "From my heart I thank my beloved people, May God bless them !" At this time the sun burst out. Vicky was in the carriage nearest me, not being able to go in mine, as her rank as Empress prevented her sitting with her back to the horses, for I had to sit alone. Her carriage was drawn by four blacks, richly caparisoned in red. We went up Constitution Hill and Piccadilly, and there were seats right along the former, where my own servants and personal attendants, and members of the other Royal Households, the Chelsea Pensioners, and the children of the Duke of York's and Greenwich schools had seats. St. James's Street was beautifully decorated with festoons of flowers across the road and many loyal inscriptions. Trafalgar Square was very striking, and outside the National Gallery stands were erected for the House of Lords. The denseness of the crowds was immense, but the order maintained wonderful. The streets in the Strand are now quite wide, but one misses Temple Bar. Here the Lord Mayor received me and presented the sword, which I touched. He then immediately mounted his horse in his robes, and galloped past bare-headed, carrying the sword, preceding my carriage, accompanied by his Sheriffs. As we neared St. Paul's the procession was often stopped, and the crowds broke out into singing *God Save the*

Queen. In one house were assembled the survivors of the Charge of Balaclava.

In front of the Cathedral the scene was most impressive. All the Colonial troops, on foot, were drawn up round the Square. My carriage, surrounded by all the Royal Princes, was drawn up close to the steps, where the Clergy were assembled, the Bishops in rich copes, with their croziers, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London each holding a very fine one. A *Te Deum* was sung, specially composed by Dr. Martin; the Lord's Prayer, most beautifully chanted, a special Jubilee prayer, and the benediction concluded the short service, preceded by the singing of the *old 100th*, in which everyone joined. *God Save the Queen* was also sung. I then spoke to the Archbishop and Bishop of London. As I drove off, the former gave out, "Three cheers for the Queen."

I stopped in front of the Mansion House, where the Lady Mayoress presented me with a beautiful silver basket full of orchids. Here I took leave of the Lord Mayor. Both he and the Lady Mayoress were quite *émus*. We proceeded over London Bridge, where no spectators were allowed, only troops, and then along the Borough Road, where there is a very poor population, but just as enthusiastic and orderly as elsewhere. The decorations there were very pretty, consisting chiefly of festoons of flowers on either side of the street. Crossed the river again over Westminster Bridge, past the Houses of Parliament, through Whitehall, Parliament Street, which has been much enlarged, through the Horse Guards and down the Mall. The heat during the last hour was very great, and poor Lord Howe, who was riding as Gold Stick, fainted and had a bad fall, but was not seriously hurt.

Got home at a quarter to two. All the carriages that had preceded mine were drawn up in the courtyard as I drove in. Had a quiet luncheon with Vicky, Beatrice, and her three children. Troops continually passing by. Then rested and later had tea in the garden with Lenchen. There was a large dinner in

the Supper-room, the same as yesterday. Bertie, who sat at my table, gave out the health of the Empress Frederick and my distinguished guests. I walked into the Ball-room afterwards, and sat down in front of the dais. Felt very tired, but tried to speak to most of the Princes and Princesses ; the suites also came in, but no one else. I wore a black and silver dress with my Jubilee necklace and the beautiful brooch given me by my Household. In the morning I wore a dress of black silk, trimmed with panels of grey satin veiled with black net and steel embroideries, and some black lace, my lovely diamond chain, given me by my younger children, round my neck. My bonnet was trimmed with creamy white flowers, and white aigrette and some black lace. I left the Ball-room at eleven. There were illuminations, which we did not see, but could hear a great deal of cheering and singing. Gave souvenirs to my children and grandchildren.

The Earl of Elgin to Queen Victoria.

VICEREGAL LODGE, SIMLA, 22nd June 1897.—
The Viceroy presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and is anxious not to allow the mail which leaves to-day to go without a few lines to convey to your Majesty his respectful homage and congratulations. The Viceroy has this moment returned from the Town Hall, where, as desired by your Majesty, he received the deputations who had come to Simla with addresses of congratulation. Considering the difficulties of travel at this time of the year, and the comparative inaccessibility of this place, it was a very representative assembly ; and the message from your Majesty, which the Viceroy received from the Secretary of State this morning, was received with much enthusiasm when he read it to the meeting. Not only the members of the deputations, but also all the high officers of Government were present, for an occasion where he was called upon to represent your Majesty in so special and honourable a manner, the Viceroy

thought ought to be marked by full State ceremonies. He hopes he did not do amiss in including in the remarks which he addressed to the meeting a strong appeal for the promotion of the spirit of goodwill which, from many of the letters he has received from your Majesty, he is well aware your Majesty is so anxious to see prevail among the Indian people, and which your Majesty has more than once instructed him to lose no opportunity of inculcating.

The Viceroy thinks your Majesty may be assured that the manifestation of loyalty, which is being witnessed in India, is the spontaneous work of the people. With your Majesty's approval the Government has announced that under the circumstances of the year it will not directly interpose. But the Viceroy has been struck at the way in which from remote districts, even from the hills of Hunza, messages have been pouring in upon him. A full statement of these will be prepared and forwarded, as well as the more formal addresses. Many of the latter are enclosed in caskets of beautiful design and workmanship.

It is with a feeling that it is not inappropriate to the day that the Viceroy is able in this letter to announce that the monsoon has fairly burst, and that most of the districts, which suffered severely, have now had a welcome fall of rain. The rains are a little late, but that is of less importance if they do not, as last year, fail too soon. It is too early to say how the numbers on the relief works will be affected, but it is the universal expectation that the numbers will fall very rapidly. Many will join in the hope that the week may prove the beginning of a return of prosperity to the Provinces which have suffered so greatly.

The plague returns also have been very satisfactory. On the other hand the terrible earthquakes, which occurred last week, have caused a fresh series of disasters. The damage in Calcutta though serious was fortunately attended with little loss of life; and the same was apparently the case in other parts of Bengal, where property suffered even more severely.

The palace of the Maharajah of Kuch Behar and the neighbouring town are said to be completely wrecked. It was, however, in Assam that the shocks were most severe, and indeed from telegrams and a letter which he received last night from the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Cotton, the Viceroy is by no means certain that they have ceased. Mr. Cotton had a very narrow escape, he was getting into a carriage with his wife, when the whole porch of the house fell in. Mr. McCabe, a distinguished officer of the Assam Administration, whose name the Viceroy had submitted for a mark of your Majesty's favour, being in his house at the time, was killed, but most fortunately the earthquake occurred at an hour, 5 p.m., when after a wet day almost everybody was out of doors. The communications with Assam are still defective owing to destruction of roads, as well as telegraphs, and details have not been received, but the latest news gives reason to hope that the loss of life was not so large as was at first feared. . . .

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 22nd June 1897.—. . . Lord Salisbury ventures to take the opportunity to congratulate your Majesty respectfully but most heartily on the splendid success of to-day's celebration. It will live in history as a unique and unequalled demonstration of the attachment which has grown more and more in intensity between the Sovereign of a vast Empire and her subjects of every clime.

[*Same date.*].—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully submits to your Majesty a suggestion which he prays your Majesty to pardon because it is outside his own province. Your Majesty has on this occasion been conferring the Victorian Order on several illustrious persons. He submits that it might be suitable and advantageous to confer it upon the young King of Spain. He is too young to receive the Garter; but any expression of your Majesty's sympathy would be very precious.

The Earl of Rosebery to Queen Victoria.

22nd June 1897.

MADAM,—I cannot let this day pass without laying at your Majesty's feet my humble and dutiful congratulations. What it must represent to your Majesty, of joy and sorrow, of pride and pathos, of the present and the past, I can only dimly guess. To us it has been the splendid expression of a nation's gratitude, the symbol of loyalty, deep, passionate, and steadfast, which has encompassed your Majesty's throne, and grown year by year with your Majesty's life, until it has penetrated every remotest corner and subject of the Empire. Could your Majesty have heard to-day the vast multitude spontaneously singing *God Save the Queen* before your carriage passed, your Majesty could scarcely fail to have been moved and gratified. No capital in the world has ever witnessed such an enthusiasm of devotion to a Sovereign.

My mind could not but turn to that different but not less touching occasion at St. George's last Sunday morning. That simple act of worship and thanksgiving, crowned by the affectionate embrace of your Majesty's family, will always remain in my memory as the most profoundly interesting and pathetic scene that I have ever witnessed. I thank your Majesty with all my heart for allowing me to be present.

It is to-day two years since I resigned into your Majesty's hands the position of First Minister, and so lost the honour of constant communication with your Majesty. But your Majesty then bade me write sometimes, and I hope that I am not abusing this privilege in writing this letter.

That health and long life and prosperity and success may attend your Majesty is the fervent prayer of your Majesty's devoted servant and subject, ROSEBERRY.

Lord Acton to Queen Victoria.

THE ATHENÆUM, 22nd June 1897.—With his most humble duty to your Majesty Lord Acton begs per-

mission to express his heartfelt gratitude for the honour which your Majesty has been graciously pleased to confer on him this day.¹

That his name and his devoted service should have been in your Majesty's thoughts on this memorable and historic occasion is a privilege of which he is deeply sensible. For it associates the distinction bestowed upon him with the most striking and most touching scene he has ever beheld. Your Majesty's most humble and devoted servant, ACTON.

The Emperor and Empress of Russia to Queen Victoria.
[Telegram.]

PETERHOF, ALEXANDRIA, 23rd June 1897.—So delighted all went off well. Hope you had a good night, feel rested. Touched you wore our present. Tenderest love. NICKY, ALIX.

The Duke of Argyll to Queen Victoria.

ARGYLL LODGE, KENSINGTON, 23rd June 1897.

MADAM,—I write only to say with what emotion Ina and I saw your Majesty yesterday in the great procession in St. James' Street. It was a sight never equalled and never to be forgotten.

Although your Majesty's Home Troops were far the finest, we were much interested in the Colonials. Their uniform is dull-coloured. But we could not help remembering that no Sovereign since the fall of Rome could muster subjects from so many and so distant countries all over the world. The Empire of Charles Vth was nothing to compare with it, although he was monarch of Spain and the Indies, as well as Emperor in Germany.

I am sure I need not assure your Majesty of our personal gratitude and devotion, or of the joy with which we unite with all your Majesty's people in praying for every blessing on your Majesty. Your Majesty's devoted subject and servant, ARGYLL.

¹ Lord Acton, the historian, had been Lord-in-Waiting to the Queen 1892-1895 (see vol. ii, pp. 146, 188, 477), and her Majesty now made him K C V.O.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 23rd June 1897.—At 3.30 I went to the Ball-room [in Buckingham Palace], where the heat was dreadful, and received Addresses from the House of Lords and House of Commons. Bertie, Alix, Affie, Marie, Beatrice, Georgie, and May were with me, and stood right behind me on the dais, where I sat. Louisa Buccleuch and Jane Churchill also stood behind, and Lord Lathom and Lord Pembroke below the steps of the dais. First came the Members of the House of Lords, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Salisbury and Lord Kimberley standing on either side. There was an immense gathering of Peers. The Lord Chancellor read the Address, and I said a few words in return, as I cannot read without spectacles or a magnifier, and I handed the official answer. Lord Salisbury, Lord Kimberley, and the Lord Chancellor kissed my hand. Next came the Members of the House of Commons, Mr. Balfour and Sir William Harcourt standing on either side of the Speaker. The same ceremonial was gone through as with the House of Lords.¹ This over, the Chairmen of the County Councils came by, one by one, followed by 400 Mayors and Provosts. The whole lasted about an hour. It being so hot and dark in the room, I felt quite sleepy.

Left Buckingham Palace at half-past five, driving with Vicky, Beatrice, and Arthur. I inspected the Yeomen of the Guard, who were drawn up in the garden on the lawn facing the water. They were under the command of Lord Waldegrave. Then we drove on quite slowly, escorted by a Sovereign's escort of the 2nd Life Guards and by the Indian escort of my Army. The crowd was almost more dense along Constitution Hill than yesterday. The stands on the left were filled [by] 10,000 schoolchildren from the elementary schools of London. Stopped near Hyde

¹ The reception of the House of Commons was mismanaged, many members not getting into the Throne-room. Accordingly the Queen invited Members and their wives to a Garden-party at Windsor. See below, pp. 187-8.

Park Corner, where there was a Guard of Honour drawn up, and where Addresses were presented by Lord Londonderry on behalf of the School Board, by the Bishop of London on behalf of the Church Schools, by Cardinal Vaughan on behalf of the Roman Catholic children, followed by Lord Rothschild for the Jewish ones, Dr. Waller for the Wesleyan Education Committee, and Mr. Kemp, Welch for the British and other undenominational schools. Three verses of *God Save the Queen* were sung by the children before I drove on. Bertie and Alix, George and May, with little David, were all present in carriages. At St. George's Hospital all the nurses grouped together on a stand made a pretty effect in their white caps and aprons. The whole way to Paddington there were the same masses of enthusiastic cheering people. At the station troopers of the Colonial troops were drawn up alongside the train, and cheered very heartily as we left. Had tea in the train.

Reached Slough at seven, or a little before, and got into an open landau with four greys and the postilions in Ascot livery. Had a Sovereign's escort of the Blues, as well as an escort of the Colonial contingent. The carriage drew up for a few hundred yards from the station opposite a sort of dais, where Lord Rothschild (Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire), Lord Curzon, and many other ladies and gentlemen were assembled, and where Addresses were presented to me by the Mayor of Slough and Magistrates of the County, also by the Bucks County Council, and the Slough Urban District. Three children from the British Orphan Asylum gave me a bouquet. Vicky, Beatrice, and Arthur again drove with me. Slough was very prettily decorated, and there were great crowds the whole way, who were very enthusiastic. Just before entering Eton we passed under an architectural arch, on which stood three boys dressed as Herald's. Inside the arch stood four young Indian boys, in their native dress, sons of the Maharajah of Kuch Behar, the Minister of Hyderabad, and the Prince of Gondal.

The Eton Volunteers formed a Guard of Honour, headed by Dr. Warre. Young Arthur was amongst them. This was at the College, where we stopped, and all the boys of the school were drawn up. I received Addresses from the Provost and Masters, as well as from the scholars, and these were not read, but handed to me in the carriage. Eton was charmingly decorated, and there was another pretty architectural arch close to the Windsor Bridge, where an Address was presented by the Thames Conservancy.

We stopped again at the foot of the Castle Hill, where my statue stands, and I received an Address from the Mayor and Corporation, and the St. George's Choir sang *God Save the Queen*. Christian and others were there. After this we drove slowly through the town and up the straight road to the Castle, along which were ranged two or three thousand children from the schools of the neighbourhood who sang. It was nearly eight when we arrived, and I felt exceedingly hot and tired. But I was much gratified by the great enthusiasm displayed everywhere, and greatly admired all the decorations, which were really quite beautiful. Only Christian and Lorne dined with us.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 24th June 1897.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully tenders his most earnest thanks to your Majesty for the very gracious and most kind offer of your Majesty to confer on him the ribbon of the Victorian Order in connection with the present celebration. If he were at liberty to accept it, he should value it beyond any other possible decoration, as having been bestowed by your Majesty's hand at such a time. But he has carefully avoided recommending any of his colleagues for honours, in order to prevent jealousies in the party; and if he were himself to accept this great honour, he should put himself entirely in a false position. He prays, therefore, your Majesty to permit him to decline it; and to believe that he does so with a sense of

the liveliest gratitude to your Majesty, and only from a desire to serve your Majesty as effectually as he can.

Lord Salisbury is very grateful to hear that your Majesty is not excessively tired.

He will telegraph to Sir H. Wolff about the Order¹ unless, which would be better, your Majesty would be willing to telegraph direct to the Queen Regent.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 28th June 1897.—Left at quarter to twelve for London. Drove from Paddington to Kensington by Bayswater, and stopped in front of the Parish Church of St. Mary Abbott, where Louise, Lorne, the Mayor and Corporation, etc., were assembled. An Address was read and presented, as well as bouquets. I answered that I was always pleased to come to my native borough. The crowds were very great, and the people most enthusiastic. The whole place was most beautifully decorated with arches, flags, and inscriptions. Reached Buckingham Palace at half-past one. Before going up to my room, I planted a tree not far from the one I planted ten years ago.

At a few minutes past five, got into my victoria with Vicky for the garden-party, all the rest of the family and foreign royalties being on foot. Drove about amongst my guests, to many of whom I spoke, but I could not see many whom I wished to. Alix changed places with Vicky part of the time. Had tea in the tent. The Princess of Naples and Augusta Strelitz sat a little while with me. All the Princes and Princesses who are leaving England, including Ella and Serge, took leave of me, and I got into the landau with Vicky and Beatrice to return to Windsor. Amongst the guests invited were some of the leading actors and actresses, viz. Henry Irving, Ellen Terry, the Bancrofts, etc. Among the musicians were Albani, with whom I shook hands, and Tosti, also many artists. Got back to Windsor at eight, very tired. Only the ladies to dinner.

¹ See above, p. 179.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

10 DOWNING STREET, 28th June 1897.—Mr. Balfour . . . begs humbly to inform your Majesty that after the London Water Bill passed through its second reading without a division a curious episode brought the sitting to a close. So great was the desire of Members to be present at your Majesty's garden-party that the Government was left in a minority. They were beaten on a (quite unimportant) division, and the irresponsible Opposition, in the absence of their own front bench, finding themselves quite uncontrolled, proceeded to refuse the adjournment of the House proposed by Mr. Balfour, and to play various other quite harmless antics, until the Unionist Members returned, and Mr. Balfour, resuming his rightful authority, adjourned the House.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 2nd July 1897.—At five drove with Beatrice and Irène¹ through the Slopes to the field on the left of the Lime Avenue, where all the Colonial troops were drawn up in line, under the command of Lord Roberts, and all were on foot. I was received with a royal salute, and then I drove slowly down the line, Lord Roberts and Lord Methuen walking near the carriage and naming each [contingent] as we came up to them, and we stopped at each.

It was a very interesting and curious sight, for there were men from every part of the world. The most noticeable among them were the Sikhs from India, the Hong-Kong Police from China, and the Houssas from West Africa, most of the latter having taken part in the Ashanti Expedition, and Beatrice had seen them before the Inspection. One of the English officers and a native one had known Liko, and the latter was called up for me to speak to him. The Houssas are fine-looking men, but very black. On returning to the saluting point the troops marched

¹ Princess Henry of Prussia.

past, reformed in line, and gave a second royal salute. At the conclusion an officer and non-commissioned officer from each regiment were brought up to my carriage to be presented, and I asked several questions about them, saying a few words in Hindustani to some of the Sikhs, who were very fine, handsome men. Poor Captain Giffard, who lost his arm in the late war in the Transvaal, having had it taken out at the socket, came by with the Rhodesian Horse.

Before leaving the ground, and as soon as all the presentations were over, I said to Lord Roberts, "Will you tell the officers and men what a great pleasure it has been to me to see so many of my subjects from the different Colonies here to-day? I hope they will all return here some day, and I wish them happiness and all prosperity." This he repeated to the troops.

3rd July.—Marie with Baby B. arrived before five. Drove with her in the victoria to the lawn under the Terrace, Lenchen, Louise, and Beatrice being on foot. Here I gave a sort of garden-party to the Members of the House of Commons, their wives and daughters. Drove about slowly amongst my guests and spoke to some. Some of the Labour Members were presented, which I heard afterwards gratified them very much.

4th July.—Heard on getting up that my dear good Annie Macdonald has passed away early this morning. I am deeply grieved, and cannot the least realise that I have lost not only an excellent faithful maid, but a real friend, who was absolutely devoted to me. She had been forty-one years in my service, thirty-one of which as wardrobe maid, and was quite invaluable.

Sir William Harcourt to Queen Victoria.

7 RICHMOND TERRACE, WHITEHALL, *4th July* 1897.—Sir William Harcourt presents his humble duty to the Queen, and hopes he may be permitted to express to your Majesty, on behalf of himself and many

Members of the House of Commons in whose name he may speak, the grateful sense they entertain of the gracious and magnificent reception which the Queen was pleased to grant to them at Windsor on Saturday. It was impossible that any greater reward should have been bestowed for their loyal and devoted attachment to your Majesty's Person and Throne. And the thoughtful kindness by which this noble entertainment was inspired has caused the most heartfelt and lively satisfaction and pleasure, the recollection of which will always be treasured in their grateful memories.

Sir William asks leave personally to express his gladness that the Queen should have been able so well to support the immense fatigue of this memorable celebration in which your Majesty has been able to witness the outpouring of the loyalty of her loving subjects gathered together to do her honour from every quarter of her vast dominions; and to hope that her life may still for years be spared to those who look up to her with reverence and affection.¹

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 5th July 1897.—Mr. Balfour with his humble duty to your Majesty trusts he is not going beyond his duty in expressing to your Majesty the immense pleasure which the garden-party at Windsor on Saturday last conferred upon the Members of the House of Commons. It not only wiped out all recollections of the *contretemps*² of the preceding week, but afforded a degree of satisfaction which could never have arisen from the presentation of an Address, however successful might have been the accompanying ceremonial. . . .

¹ In a note to Sir Arthur Bigge accompanying the above letter, Sir William wrote: "Nothing could have been better than the entertainment of yesterday. It was *right royally* done; everything most handsomely provided, and great courtesy to the guests from all the Court and Household. It was a happy thought happily executed, and has given great satisfaction and will do great good in all ways."

² See above, p. 182.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 6th July 1897.—Mr. W[hitelaw] Reid¹ was full of the kindest expressions to me personally, and said that the people in America were so much attached to me, and spoke of me as “the good Queen,” and that there was in fact a very friendly feeling towards this country, the various disputes and disagreements being really entirely superficial.

7th July.—Held a Council in the White Drawing-room, before which I saw the Duke of Devonshire. At the Council, at which Arthur was present, the fifteen Colonial Premiers were sworn in P.C.s, the principal one being Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a French Canadian. They then presented me with Addresses in most beautiful caskets, and I gave them their Jubilee medals, after which the wives of the Premiers were presented. They also gave me beautifully illuminated Addresses. Mr. Chamberlain presented the Premiers and Mrs. Chamberlain the ladies.

Bishop Creighton to Queen Victoria.

FULHAM PALACE, 8th July 1897.—The Bishop of London presents his humble duty to her Majesty, and in obedience to her Majesty's command, has the honour to submit the following imperfect attempt to describe the memorable scene of the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of her Majesty's reign. That he has delayed in writing it is due to the fact that he wished to have some little time to be sure that his impressions were shared by others, and were trustworthy.

Memorandum by Bishop Creighton.

The proceedings of 22nd June were of so unique a character that it is hard to find a standard by which to measure their significance. They were not the recognised expression of national sentiment gathering round a stated ceremony, such as a Coronation.

¹ Special United States Envoy for the Diamond Jubilee, afterwards Ambassador in London.

Ceremonies of that kind owe their impressiveness to the fact that they mark definite epochs in the national life, and have their place amongst the procedure of the State. They are organised as magnificent exhibitions of a nation's sense of its own greatness, and in them the person of the ruler is regarded as a symbol of the national life. Far otherwise were the proceedings of 22nd June in London. They were not according to any precedent. They did not aim at embodying any recognised ceremonial. They were not intended to show forth the nation's belief in itself. They were entirely simple, and absolutely personal; they had reference only to the Queen. The Ruler who had governed England for a longer time than any of her predecessors drove through her capital city that she might receive in person the congratulations of her people. On her way she paused at the door of the Cathedral Church, where a brief service of thanksgiving was offered to Almighty God. This was all that took place. It cannot be called a State ceremony. Its impressiveness lay in its simplicity and its spontaneity.

Yet no ceremonial recorded in history was ever more impressive, more truly national, or expressed more faithfully sentiments which were deeply and universally felt. The very fact that it was simple, personal, and unfettered by precedent gave it an extension which was at first unforeseen. There was no time for elaborate preparations. The scheme took shape almost of itself, in obedience to the popular desire. There was no thought of making a great national display, but the nation had such a deep desire to show its reverence to the Queen that things grew in proportion from day to day. The wish of England was re-echoed in England's Colonies. The occasion expanded into a significant manifestation of imperial greatness, and of a fundamental unity of purpose, which came as a revelation to England and the Colonies alike, and awakened the respectful wonder of all Europe. Yet this feature was entirely incidental: it was recognised afterwards with natural

pride, but it was scarcely present at the time to the minds of spectators. They were not there to do honour to themselves as Englishmen : they were there to do honour to the Queen. The proceedings throughout were charged with strong personal feeling. It was not the grandeur, the dignity, or the display which were impressive : it was the intimacy and the sincerity of the respect and affection felt towards the Queen which was in the air, and brought home to every heart an overpowering emotion in the thoughts of what England had become under her rule, and what she had done for England.

It is only by reference to these considerations that the actual ceremony of St. Paul's Cathedral can be understood. The spectators were not there to admire a pageant : they were present, every one of them, to express a deep-seated personal feeling.¹ . . .

The real significance of the day was the depth of the emotion which it stirred and expressed. "Happy is the people that is in such a case !"

[Copy.] *Sir Arthur Bigge to the Marquis of Salisbury.*

WINDSOR CASTLE, 13th July 1897.

DEAR LORD SALISBURY,—Though the Queen has, as you are aware, abandoned the idea of the Duke of Connaught's being Adjutant-General, H.M. feels that some recorded assurance should be given that, in the opinion of the Government, the fact of H.R.H.'s not having served in that capacity or as Quartermaster-General should not hereafter be regarded as a disqualification for the post of Commander-in-Chief.

The Queen would remind you of the great and varied experiences of the Duke of Connaught's military career, which, combined with H.R.H.'s characteristic conscientious zeal and his love for the service, in H.M.'s opinion are qualities which would make any General Officer of his standing a fit choice for Commander-in-Chief. The Queen desires me to call your

¹ Here follows a description of the scene and ceremony in St. Paul's Churchyard.

attention to a letter in to-day's *Times* which attacks, in a manner which I feel sure would be condemned by all soldiers, the manner in which the Duke of Connaught has commanded at Aldershot, and then proceeds, as did a writer in a recent article to the *Daily Chronicle*, to deprecate the very idea of H.R.H.'s ever becoming Commander-in-Chief. The fact of such views being openly advocated in a newspaper like *The Times* renders it all the more imperative that the Queen should be satisfied that, in following the advice of her Ministers on this question, she is in no way endangering the prospects of the Duke of Connaught's succeeding at the right time to the position of Commander-in-Chief, for which H.M. believes him to be in every way fitted. Yours very truly, ARTHUR BIGGE.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 14th July 1897.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—The decision of the Queen not to urge at present the appointment of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught to the office of Adjutant-General cannot in my judgment in any way affect the question of his appointment at a future time to the office of Commander-in-Chief. This view is sufficiently established by the circumstance, that, while the office of Commander-in-Chief has been several times held by a member of the Royal Family, the office of Adjutant-General has not been so held. It evidently results that the tenure of the latter office is *not* a preliminary required in these cases to the tenure of the former.

In one respect I think that the Duke of Connaught, by keeping out of the Adjutant-Generalship, will improve his prospect of being appointed Commander-in-Chief. He will avoid the danger of personal differences which grow abundantly out of the proceedings of that department. Such grievances matter little in the case of ordinary subjects; but, in the case of one of the Queen's sons, men might be found who would think it was to their advantage to get the

notoriety which such a controversy might bestow upon them. It is an office which creates enemies ; and for the interest of his Royal Highness' candidature for the office of Commander-in-Chief, it is very desirable that he should not make enemies.

I do not myself attach much importance to the letter in *The Times* ; but it is so far worthy of attention, that its appearance indicates that opinion is sensitive on this matter, and therefore that it requires circumspect handling. Believe me, yours very truly,
SALISBURY.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 26th July 1897.—Mr. Balfour with his humble duty to your Majesty begs humbly to inform your Majesty that this evening was in the main occupied by an interesting debate on the report of the South African Committee. Mr. Philip Stanhope¹ moved a resolution hostile to the majority of that committee, and Mr. Labouchere supported him. But Sir M. Hicks Beach, followed shortly afterwards by Sir W. Harcourt, utterly shattered the case of these objectors, and all the efforts of Mr. Courtney and others were powerless to set it up again. It was interesting to note the violent differences of opinion which divided the Opposition side of the House. The resolution was a vote of censure to all intents and purposes on (among others) the leader of the Opposition. It stood in the name of one of his nominal followers below the gangway. It was moved and replied to in speeches of almost equal bitterness. An amendment was then moved to the resolution, and opposed not only by Mr. Balfour and the Government, but by Mr. Stanhope and the Radicals. The net result of all this was that the majorities against both resolution and amendment were overwhelming in their size, and the Opposition were for the moment hopelessly divided.

The most important speech of the evening was that

¹ Afterward Lord Weymouth.

by Mr. Chamberlain; and was a very remarkable effort. He defended his own action in respect of the Raid. He exposed the absurdity of the various legends which have gained currency on the subject of the supposed complicity of the Colonial Office. He explained that, however great the error of Mr. Rhodes, it did not affect his personal honour; and that in the necessary reforms which would have to be introduced into the Government of Rhodesia would *not* be included the abolition of the Charter. This general statement was received with favour, and the whole proceedings were of a satisfactory character.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.
[*Cypher Telegram.*]

30th July 1897.—Think the King of Siam should have the Star of India. It should arrive here on Friday (?).

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.
[*Cypher Telegram.*]

3rd Aug. 1897.—I understand Star of India will be distasteful to King of Siam, who would be, if the Queen's intentions were known, persuaded to refuse it by his people. No independent Sovereign has the order, which the Siamese look upon as only suitable for Feudatories.

The King has the highest orders of every country except the "Golden Fleece." Under the circumstances I think it will be better to offer nothing.

I have explained that the Garter is no longer given to non-Christian Sovereigns.

Sir Francis Knollys to Sir Arthur Bigge.

ROYAL YACHT "OSBORNE," COWES, 3rd August 1897.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—I have submitted your letter and enclosures to the Prince of Wales. He desires me to say that it is evident the King [of Siam] would not like the G.C.B. or G.C.S.I. to be offered to him, and he thinks the Queen is quite right not to give him the

Garter. But would he not be pleased with the G.C.V.O., if it were explained to him that it is her Majesty's *own personal* order, and is given by her alone without any reference to Government? H.R.H. thinks that it would at all events be worth telegraphing to London so that the King might be sounded on the subject.

The Prince of Wales concurs with Lord Salisbury and Lord Rosebery in deeming it advisable that a special class of the Star of India should be created, which might rank before the Bath. Yours sincerely,
FRANCIS KNOLLYS.

Sir Arthur Bigge to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

[Copy.]

OSBORNE, 3rd August 1897.

MY DEAR LORD LANSDOWNE,—In reply to your letter of yesterday to the Queen, her Majesty desires me to say that before Sir George White is designated to succeed Sir Evelyn Wood¹ she would be glad to know who is to succeed to the post of Commander-in-Chief in India on the recall of Sir G. White. The Queen is glad to hear that you concur in her opinion that the latter should remain in India until the general condition of affairs there is more satisfactory than at present. Yours very truly, ARTHUR BIGGE.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 4th Aug. 1897.—At half-past one I went down to the hall, where I was joined by Alix, Beatrice, and my four granddaughters. The King of Siam had arrived just before with Bertie and Georgie, and his son Prince Chira, at the other door. Everybody was in uniform, including the Siamese. Took the King to the Drawing-room, and there he presented his suite to me, all my ladies being present, as well as Lord Salisbury and Lord Lathom. The King was very friendly, and said how pleased he was to see me. We lunched in the Durbar Room, and the band of the

¹ Who had been Quartermaster-General, and had been appointed to succeed Sir Redvers Buller as Adjutant-General.

Scottish Rifles played outside. It was a big luncheon, including all the suites. I sat between the King and Bertie, Alix sitting on his other side next to Prince Chira. The King left again at half-past three, Bertie and Alix having preceded him, in order to receive him on board the *Osborne*.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Queen Victoria.

WAR OFFICE, 5th Aug. 1897.—Lord Lansdowne presents his humble duty to the Queen, and in reply to your Majesty's enquiry contained in Sir Arthur Bigge's letter of the 3rd instant, he begs to say that, in his opinion, it would be desirable that Sir William Lockhart should succeed Sir George White as Commander-in-Chief, India.

Sir William has a good record of service ; great experience of frontier warfare, and a thorough knowledge of the Indian Army. Lord Lansdowne feels sure that your Majesty will concur with him that no officer, however able, is fit for this supremely important post, unless he has the latter qualification. Sir William can speak the vernacular languages, and will be trusted by the native soldiers, whom he has so often led in the field.

Lord George Hamilton strongly favours Sir William's appointment, which is generally expected in India. Lord Wolseley has been away from the War Office, and Lord Lansdowne has not been able to consult him, but he has reason to know that the Commander-in-Chief is prepared for Sir William's selection. It may interest your Majesty to know that Lord Roberts told Lord Lansdowne that it was the best which, in his opinion, could be made.

The time at which Sir William Lockhart might take Sir George White's place would be decided after consultation with the Government of India.

Lord Lansdowne is able to say that the Prime Minister concurs in this proposal.¹

¹ Through Sir Arthur Bigge the Queen expressed on 8th August her full approval.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach to Queen Victoria.

TREASURY CHAMBERS, 5th August 1897.—Sir Michael Hicks Beach presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and begs to thank your Majesty very gratefully for the approbation which your Majesty has been pleased to express of his action with regard to the vote for the expenses of the Jubilee celebration.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach very much regrets that the exigencies of time, at the close of the Session, permitted no discussion of the vote, for he is convinced that the feeling of the House of Commons, which, as it was, could only be expressed by cheers, would then have been shown in an even more gratifying manner, and he would have especially liked the opportunity of communicating to the House that it was by your Majesty's own command that the expenses of the reception of the House at Windsor Castle, which gave the members of the House so much pleasure, were not included in the vote.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

HATFIELD HOUSE, 12th August 1897.

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—I am very grateful to the Queen for letting me see these papers and informing me of her unchanged view with respect to the bestowal of the Garter upon the King [of Siam]. . . . I feel no doubt that the Queen has taken the right course in adhering to her former decision.¹

I ought to have replied to you sooner, but I have had an attack of lumbago. Ever yours truly, SALISBURY.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 29th Aug. 1897.—Saw Lord Salisbury after luncheon. There was much talk on all sorts of topics. The state of affairs regarding peace is still very distressing. There is hope that the Greeks may be able to pay part of the indemnity, which we would readily guarantee, but the other Powers seem averse, and Germany wishes to *force* and not *ask* Greece to

¹ See vol. ii, pp. 530, 561.

pay. It is all due to William's shameful behaviour. The concert of the Powers has not been a success, and we have been prevented from doing the good we might have done. It is most grievous.

Spoke of India and this distressing rising on the frontier, also of the Ameer. Lord Salisbury said we must soon agree to let him send his representative here; it is the one thing he wants, and the reason for which he sent his son here. The Indian Government is very much against it, but we must insist on it, as it would greatly conciliate the Ameer.

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to Earl Cadogan.*

BALMORAL CASTLE, 3rd Sept. 1897.—The Queen thanks the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland very much for his kind and interesting letter.

It is very satisfactory and gratifying that the Duke and Duchess of York's visit went off so well in every part of Ireland. It was the same on the occasion of our three visits there, but alas! it did not produce a lasting effect, and the Queen fears this may still be the case. And various intended visits had to be given up on account of the sad state of the country caused by wicked agitators kept for party purposes. The Queen hopes this will not happen again.¹

With regard to a regular residence to be purchased the Queen cannot say that she is for it. It might often be difficult to go there, and then might do more harm than good. Frequent visits from some members or other of the Queen's children and grandchildren, she is inclined to think, would be better, safer, and more prudent.

Lord Cadogan seems to have arranged everything admirably, and her [grand]children told her that nothing could excel his or Lady Cadogan's kindness.

¹ Writing to the Queen on the 9th Sept., Lord Salisbury said: "Lord Salisbury ventures respectfully to congratulate your Majesty on the remarkable success of the visit of H.R.H. the Duke of York to Ireland. His reception far exceeded what anyone ventured to expect; and the general impression is that the visit will have a most salutary effect on the feelings and disposition of your Majesty's subjects in that land."

The Nizam of Hyderabad to Queen Victoria.

SARDAR VILLA, HYDERABAD, 4th September 1897.

MADAM,—I have to express my high appreciation of the great kindness with which your Majesty in your letter of 22nd July has graciously acknowledged my congratulations.

Your Majesty's Poet Laureate wrote :

To loyal hearts the value of all gifts
Must vary as the giver's.

I am very glad to know that you have accordingly valued my presents and treated them as a proof of my sincere friendship and esteem. I must also tender my best thanks to your Majesty for the gracious assurance of your continued and warm interest in the welfare of my country and myself. May your Majesty live long to add still greater glory to your illustrious reign.

I desire to express once more the high respect and admiration which I entertain for your Majesty, and to subscribe myself as my forefathers subscribed before, your Majesty's faithful ally and sincere friend, MIR MAHBOOB ALI KHAN.

Queen Victoria to Lord George Hamilton.

[Cypher Telegram.]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 15th Sept. 1897.—I never receive any telegraphic news from the India Office as to what is going on, on the frontier, and would wish to hear from you [of] what the forces now are composed, and who are the officers in command. I telegraphed to the Viceroy himself, hearing nothing except by the papers, but have received no real details. All I know is from Reuter and the newspapers.

Pray let me know what is intended. The conduct of the native Princes and troops is admirable.¹

¹ Lord George Hamilton in reply explained that "the fighting upon the frontier has been of so desultory a nature, and the various operations so disconnected with one another, that Lord George thought that the simplest plan of disseminating news would be to send all the telegrams

[*Copy.*] *Queen Victoria to Sir Redvers Buller.*

BALMORAL CASTLE, 19th Sept. 1897.—The Queen is anxious to express personally to Sir Redvers Buller her deep sense of his very valuable services as Adjutant-General, which office he held during seven years, and which he is about to relinquish.

She greatly regrets his leaving this very important office, and at a time of considerable anxiety. But the Queen is sure that she can always count on his loyal devotion to his Queen and country in whatever position he may be placed.

The Queen concludes by wishing Sir Redvers Buller and his family every happiness, and will always take a warm interest in his welfare.

Queen Victoria to Lord George Hamilton.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 19th Sept. 1897.—These news from the Indian frontier are most distressing. There must have been a great want of proper combination, too small bodies of troops sent out here and there, many small forts with too few men to hold them. It is our usual fault to send out too small a force. Ought not Sir G. White to go up himself to see that all was right?

The Native troops behave splendidly, and I hope the Victoria Cross will be awarded equally to Native and British troops.

Am most anxious to know the names of those who have fallen. What a fearful number of officers!

Lord George Hamilton to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

20th Sept. 1897.—Lord George Hamilton with his humble duty to your Majesty.

he received to the daily newspapers, who arranged them in such order as to make intelligible the various operations going on." He would now send a marked map with a memorandum to Balmoral, together with all the important telegrams received.

Heavy loss of General Jeffreys' force on 17th explained in to-day's telegram. He has since fought successful action. All the Generals in command reported to be men of experience and capacity, and general operations are under direct personal supervision of Sir George White.

Forces mobilising on Frontier ample for work assigned to them, but difficult country through which they march facilitates attack by enemy on small and detached parties. Heavy loss of officers very serious, and due to better rifle tribesmen now possess.

Indian Government aware any reverse would inflame whole of Frontier, and devote great energy and attention to the task before them. Sir William Lockhart should be in Peshawur next week, when I will communicate your Majesty's wish as to distribution of Victoria Cross.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

24th Sept. 1897.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully thanks your Majesty for two letters received.

In accordance with your Majesty's commands the first letter has been sent to Lord George Hamilton. It undoubtedly seems to have been a mistake to multiply small posts in the mountainous district, which are thereby at the mercy of insurgent tribes. The explanation of this policy seems to be that it was thought that in this manner the tribes could be gained over, and made a bulwark against Russia. This has been often the mistake of the Indian Government to think exclusively of Russia, which at worst is a distant danger, and to ignore the danger from native discontent which lies at their feet.

Lord Salisbury had noticed with pleasure the despatches to which your Majesty refers. Unfortunately, though the Emperor himself seems to be friendly to this country, the Russian administration, especially in the Foreign Office, clings to the old tradition; and some time must necessarily elapse before the wiser

views of the Emperor and Empress penetrate the minds of the officials who have been trained in another school.

Queen Victoria to Lord George Hamilton.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 29th Sept. 1897.—Am grieved but not surprised at the Afridis intending to attack again. But I fear it will be a long and troublesome affair, costing many valuable lives. I fear that the poor people are suffering from the necessity of supplying horses and ponies and cattle to us, as we have lost so many, which comes heavily upon them after their famine and plague.

Would wish to know how many Native officers and men have been killed and wounded. The former are never mentioned, but only the English, which I think very wrong.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 30th Sept. 1897.—Took leave with much regret of Georgie and May, who are leaving the first thing to-morrow morning. Every time I see them I love and like them more and respect them greatly. Thank God! Georgie has got such an excellent, useful, and good wife!

[*Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to the King of Siam.*

BALMORAL, 30th Sept. 1897.—I thank your Majesty very much for your kind telegram, and am very glad that you liked your visit to Windsor. I desire to express my best wishes for your Majesty's health and happiness, and trust you may have a prosperous journey back to your own dominion.
VICTORIA R. I.

Lord George Hamilton to Queen Victoria.

INDIA OFFICE, WHITEHALL, S.W., 1st Oct. 1897.—
. . . The military operations on the frontier have been so far very successful; due to the skill of the Generals

and the gallantry of officers and men. The country in which these operations have been carried on, is outside the frontier of British India proper, but, with one exception, inside the area over which the Indian Government exercise political control. It is a barren, desolate country, with little means of subsistence. The tribes have been punished by the destruction of their fortified villages and the capture and appropriation of all stores of food. These punishments, together with the heavy loss of life experienced by the tribes wherever they have fought, have accelerated the acceptance of the terms proposed, *viz.* fines of money and surrender of arms. The terms being complied with, there is no object in our troops remaining in these regions, except where there are routes or passes of importance which require safeguarding.

The one valley outside the British sphere of influence in which our troops have been fighting is that in which the Keddah Mullah, the prime instigator of these disturbances, lives. Jaroli, his village, was within the British boundary as designated by the Durand agreement; by subsequent arrangement it is within the Afghan sphere of influence. The Ameer was informed that we should pursue the Keddah Mullah if he retreated to his stronghold. The Ameer agreed provided we did not penetrate farther into his country.

The terms to be imposed upon the Afridis who do command the Khyber and other important passes will require very careful consideration after they have been brought to submission.

Lord George goes to London next week, and will then discuss with the Indian Council what form the terms should take, and he hopes when at Balmoral late in October to be able to submit to the Queen some scheme for the better control of these frontier routes.

The Earl of Rosebery to Queen Victoria.

BALMORAL CASTLE, 4th October 1897.

MADAM,—I am honoured by your Majesty's gracious note, but fear I am a bad contriver of methods

to meet a difficulty of this kind,¹ from want of the necessary knowledge and experience.

But what occurs to me is that non-Christian Sovereigns might be given a special decoration consisting of a portrait of your Majesty framed in diamonds to hang round the neck; or that a special category of the Star of India should be formed *for Sovereigns only* (indeed, this suggestion might be combined with the first, and the portrait might constitute the extra insignia of this special category); or that similarly a special category, for Sovereigns only, with some such special insignia, should be formed in the Victorian Order. But of course the cost in cases where the order is not bestowed as the private gift of your Majesty, but as a matter of public policy, would not fall on your Majesty.

In foreign orders a high class is sometimes formed I believe by giving the decoration in diamonds. But this would be new here, and therefore not understood.

With many apologies for the barrenness of these ideas, I remain, your Majesty's devoted servant and subject, ROSEBERRY.

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to Lord Tennyson.*

BALMORAL CASTLE, 9th Oct. 1897.—The Queen has to thank Lord Tennyson for his kind letter as well as for the copy of the Life of his father which she will read with much interest. She greatly admires the lines placed at the beginning which Lord Tennyson says were found amongst his unpublished poems.

The Queen will retain a warm recollection of his father's ever kind and ready sympathy, evinced towards herself by her Poet Laureate, whose beautiful poems she so greatly admires and which have immortalised his name.

¹ The difficulty of discovering any satisfactory distinction to offer to non-Christian Sovereigns, if the decision not to confer the Garter upon them is maintained.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 17th Oct. 1897.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully submits that he was aware your Majesty as a rule preferred that only the Thistle should be given to Scottish nobles. But he knew that your Majesty had allowed the two dignities to be cumulated in the case of the Duke of Argyll; and he thought that possibly your Majesty's affection for both the late and the present Duchess, and the long service of the latter might induce you to make a similar exception in the case of the Duke of Buccleuch. But the matter is entirely for your Majesty's decision. If you prefer not to depart from the rule, Lord Salisbury will submit the name of the Duke of Portland.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 20th Oct. 1897.—I am ready to make an exception for the Duke, but would wish it to be the last Scottish nobleman to receive the Thistle [? Garter].

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

23rd Oct. 1897.—Humble duty. Your Majesty's cypher is difficult to answer. When the frontier of India is attacked, the responsibility for defensive measures necessary must rest on the Government of India. If we attempted to take it out of their hands, and to dictate measures from here, we should incur the calamities which formerly attached [to] the interference of the Aulic [Council] in Austria.

The only answer therefore that I can give your Majesty is that we have the fullest confidence in the Government of India, that they will do their very utmost to confine the effusion of blood within the narrowest limits consistent with the safety of India.

Viscount Wolseley to Queen Victoria.

WAR OFFICE, 25th Oct. 1897.—Lord Wolseley presents his humble duty to the Queen, and hopes that her Majesty will approve of the efforts he is now making to add to the permanent strength of the army. More Line battalions and more battalions of Field Artillery are absolutely necessary, and Lord Lansdowne is fully aware of this fact. Lord Wolseley is in great hopes that the Cabinet will agree to what he asks.

He is very sorry that the Government do not intend to push on to Khartoum this winter. It would be easy to send out the troops required, at least eight battalions, one regiment of Cavalry and two batteries of Field Artillery. Lord Wolseley is much afraid that any delay in taking Khartoum may give rise to difficulties with the French on the Upper Nile. The French, it is known, are very active in that region. . . . Your Majesty's humble servant and devoted soldier, WOLSELEY.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 26th Oct. 1897.—I am much troubled by the vexed African question with the French, and earnestly hope some sort of compromise can be arrived at without giving in to them.

The conduct of my troops on the Indian frontier is beyond all praise, and the hardships and difficulties quite enormous. I think they should be markedly [?] rewarded without distinction of British and Native. The Victoria Cross should be bestowed equally on both, and the distinction of race, so long and I think unduly [?] maintained, should disappear on such occasions.

Lord George Hamilton only wants your and my support to carry this out.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

27th Oct. 1897.—Humble duty. Your Majesty's telegram of yesterday. I will do my best to obey your

Majesty's commands, in the wisdom of which I entirely concur.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 27th Oct. 1897.—While I was dressing, Beatrice asked to see me. She said there were sad news about a near relative : it was dear Mary Teck ; and she read me the following telegram : “ My beloved Mary died at 3 a.m. this morning from effects of another operation. May, Alge, and I were with her at the end. TECK.” “ We are all heartbroken. You will feel for us in our misery. MAY.” The whole thing is too grievous and sad.

Quantities of telegrams arrived, and I had many to send about beloved Mary. It seems like a horrible dream. She was so warm-hearted and kind, and ever ready to help in doing good, so universally popular and beloved by high and low. Poor, unhappy Franz, I cannot bear to think of him. She was so courageous and full of spirit, so loyal, and such a charming companion, talking so well, and such a good mimic. To me and mine she was always so full of love and sympathy. Came up early to my room, and Beatrice read despatches and telegrams to me. Poor Franz telegraphed to me, enquiring whether dear Mary might be laid to rest in St. George's Chapel, as she had a great aversion to Kew. I answered of course in the affirmative, and am glad to think it will be so.

[Copy.] *The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.*

FOREIGN OFFICE, 29th Oct. 1897.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty to your Majesty respectfully submits that at his reception at the Foreign Office on Wednesday, the German, Italian, Spanish, and Turkish Ambassadors, and the French Minister, expressed in feeling terms their sincere sorrow for the terrible loss which your Majesty and the Royal Family had sustained in the death of Princess Mary, and bore full and abundant testimony to her admirable qualities and attractive character. The German and Italian

Ambassadors, who had been here for a considerable time, had been deeply impressed by her charm.

In conveying these expressions of feeling Lord Salisbury ventures respectfully to offer to your Majesty his sincere sympathy on the loss of one who was bound to you by more than one close tie of relationship, and was a most devoted friend and subject. She was singularly beloved, and she deserved it; for there were few who had not witnessed or known some instance of her unselfish and thoughtful kindness. Her death is universally felt as a national bereavement.

[Draft.] *Queen Victoria to Viscount Wolseley.*

WINDSOR CASTLE, Nov. 1897.—The Queen thanks Lord Wolseley for his letter. She most cordially approves of Lord Wolseley's efforts to increase the strength of the Army in both Artillery and Infantry. The Queen will speak to Lord Salisbury on the subject. She only hopes that the men will be forthcoming for the proposed increase.

The Queen would certainly prefer, were it possible, to go to Khartoum this winter. But we have so much on hand elsewhere that it might be questionable policy to send a large force out of England, and she fears that there would be difficulties as to the cost of such an expedition.

She would be glad to hear how the formation of the two new battalions of Guards is progressing.

The fighting on the Indian frontier [has been] most severe and harassing, and the conduct of the British and Native troops has been quite heroic. But the losses have been very sad, [and the] number of officers who have fallen very distressing. The Queen is most grieved at this.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 14th Nov. 1897.—Saw Lord Salisbury. He seemed well and much happier about Lady Salisbury. We talked of India, of the sad loss

of life and the heroism of our troops, but he thought there was great want of clear knowledge of what had been impending, and lack of preparation. Also he discussed the absolute necessity of increasing the Army, which was being so constantly drawn upon; the troubles with France about Egypt, which he hoped would be overcome. Mr. Chamberlain is a little too warlike, and hardly sees the other side of the question. Lord Salisbury said he had heard that it would be impossible for us to get to Khartoum this winter, as the railway was not finished, which I much regret. We talked of dear Mary and of what a loss she was. Touched on the *impasse* between Turkey and Greece, etc., etc.

19th Nov.—Helen came to luncheon, and was present with me afterwards, when I received a deputation of the “Girls’ Friendly Society,” which consisted of Mrs. Maclagan (wife of the Archbishop of York), Mrs. Campion, Miss Grosvenor, and Mrs. Chaloner Chute. Mrs. Campion read an address, which was very prettily worded and enclosed in a most beautifully embroidered cover, and presented by Mrs. Maclagan. Miss Grosvenor then handed me the £1,100 which the girls all over the world have collected as a donation to the Fund for the Queen Victoria’s Jubilee Institute for Nurses, started by Bertie in celebration of this year. The pocket or bag in which all the bank notes were put was also very beautifully embroidered. The whole sum has been collected in shillings and pence.

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to the Earl of Elgin.*

CLAREMONT, ESHER, 19th Nov. 1897.—. . . The fighting on the frontier continues very severe, and causes the Queen much pain and anxiety, as the loss of life is so great and distressing and the loss of officers most serious. Can nothing be done in the way of dress to make the officers less conspicuous? As we do not wish to retain any part of the country, is the continuation and indefinite prolongation of these punitive expeditions really quite justifiable at the cost of many

valuable lives? It seems to the Queen a great question whether it is quite justifiable, but she would be glad to know the Viceroy's opinion on this very serious subject.

The Queen cannot help fearing that there was a want of preparation, of watchfulness, and of knowledge of what the wild tribes were planning, which ought not to have been.

The Queen Empress is much troubled about the plague also, which seems to be increasing. The Queen feels much for the great anxiety which all this must cause Lord and Lady Elgin. The fighting seems of an unexampled severity, and the continual firing into the camp at night most harassing.

But she is in unbounded admiration of the bravery, courage, and heroism of her troops, British and Native.

Sir Arthur Bigge to the Duke of Devonshire.

[Copy.]

WINDSOR CASTLE, 26th November 1897.

DEAR DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE,—In this hastily prepared memorandum,¹ I have endeavoured to note some details which the Queen thought should be mentioned to you. They may serve to amplify a letter which by the Queen's wishes I wrote yesterday to the Prime Minister pointing out in general terms what are her Majesty's feelings with regard to the present state of the Army.

¹ The memorandum covered much ground, arranged under separate headings: *Administration*—mainly dealing with the War Office and its civilian clerks, "many of whom 'have been thirty years in the office and are motheaten with tradition, red tape, and obstruction,' and in whose hands any military officer must be on first taking office." *What is expected of the Army*—there should be a definite agreement on our general military policy. *The Cardwell System*—has it been proved successful? *Short service and Reservists*—might not service in India be postponed till the soldier is twenty, and extended till he is twenty-eight? Should not Mr. Cardwell's intentions as to third battalions and training of recruits at dépôt centres be put in force? Has his system been carried out in its entirety? *Re-enlisting*—why not increase the Marines, for which service recruits are easily obtained, and let them garrison coaling stations instead of infantry? Among other suggestions, permit re-engagement of discharged soldiers without refunding deferred pay, and perhaps do away with deferred pay altogether. *Artillery*—serious deficiency in guns; and reserve forces practically without artillery.

I feel that I ought to make it clearly understood that these notes in no way partake of the nature of instructions, but are merely some views and suggestions which have reached the Queen through various sources upon the accuracy of which H.M. can offer no opinion. Yours very truly, ARTHUR BIGGE.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

HATFIELD HOUSE, 26th November 1897.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—I am much obliged to you for your letter of yesterday's date, conveying her Majesty's wishes in regard to her army.

I will lay the letter before the Cabinet to-morrow. Yours faithfully, SALISBURY.

Sir Arthur Bigge to the Duke of Devonshire.

[Copy.]

WINDSOR CASTLE, 7th December 1897.

DEAR DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE,—The Queen desires me to ask you to let her hear what progress is being made by the Cabinet Committee upon the Army. As you will remember when you were here last week, her Majesty told me to say that she thought there ought to be a Military Committee. In reply I informed H.M. that I gathered that you thought this would delay matters. The Queen, however, thinks that you should insist upon hearing the opinions of some of the regimental officers before coming to any decision as to the recommendations to be adopted for remedying the present unsatisfactory state of affairs in the Army. . . . A. B.

The Duke of Devonshire to Sir Arthur Bigge.

DEVONSHIRE HOUSE, PICCADILLY, W., 8th December 1897.

MY DEAR BIGGE,— . . . The Committee have had several meetings, and will have some recommendations to make to the Cabinet, though the detailed changes proposed may not be ready quite yet.

I will of course inform the Cabinet of the Queen's desire that the opinions of regimental officers should be further heard before any decisions are arrived at,

but the Committee certainly believe that everything which they can tell us has been already brought out by Lord Wantage's and other enquiries. I remain, yours sincerely, DEVONSHIRE.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 15th Dec. 1897.—Saw Lord Salisbury before dinner for some little time. We talked on all subjects. Peace was to be urged, but the finding of a Prince for Crete was a great difficulty. Petrovitch was refused by the Prince of Montenegro. Africa and France were a great difficulty. The French were in the wrong, and yet would not admit it, and we could not give up our rights. Mr. Chamberlain was very strong on this point. India and its frontier, with the sad continuing losses it entails, Lord Salisbury thinks a terrible and anxious business.

Heard that kind old Sir Lyndoch Gardiner had passed peacefully away. I am extremely sorry, for he is the last of my contemporaries, of former happy old Claremont days. We were children together, and he was only a year younger than me, and wonderfully active up to the last, though he had been failing a little in health these last two years. He had given up being Equerry barely two years ago. He was excessively charitable, and the promoter of many good works. He was a clever man in many ways, and used to translate German poetry into English very well. His parents had been great friends of all of us, and had been about Princess Charlotte. He will be a great loss.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

18th Dec. 1897.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty to your Majesty respectfully submits that a Cabinet was held yesterday at the Foreign Office. It was entirely devoted to the question of the Army. The decisions arrived at were not definitive, because they may always require to be revised in order to adapt them to the financial position of the Chancellor of the Exchequer at the end of the financial year.

But the general result of a long discussion was that the Cabinet accepted the scheme laid before it by Lord Lansdowne and the Duke of Devonshire. Many of them did not do so willingly, because a considerable aversion to the linked battalion system was expressed and felt. But there was no one in the Cabinet acquainted with War Office details except Lord Lansdowne and the Duke of Devonshire; and therefore no one was in a position to produce an alternative scheme.

At all events the scheme that was accepted presents a considerable improvement. Its rough features are, that ten battalions are to be added to the Army, and some eighty men to each of the existing battalions; that the threepence for groceries shall cease to be deducted, that is to say, that the pay of the soldier shall be increased by about a quarter; that deferred pay shall be reduced, and that a discharged soldier shall be allowed to re-enlist without repaying it; and that the battalions shall be linked in fours instead of in couples, so that three may in emergency go abroad and only one stay at home. There were many smaller provisions, but these indicate their general drift. The Army will be larger and better paid, and the Cardwell system will be rendered rather more elastic. But the Cardwell system remains still there.

The Cabinet meets on this subject again in January to make the final dispositions.

[Copy.] *Sir Arthur Bigge to the Marquis of Salisbury.*

19th December 1897.

MY DEAR LORD SALISBURY,—The Queen desires me to thank you for your letter of yesterday reporting what had taken place in yesterday's Cabinet with regard to the Army. H.M. is of course glad to hear of the proposed substantial increase to the Army, and nobly trusts that the necessary men will be forthcoming. She is also much pleased to know that the soldier is really to get a free ration.

But H.M. wishes me to point out what seems

unsatisfactory to her in the Government deliberations upon this most important question of Army Reform, *viz.* that, as you say there is no one in the Cabinet except Lord L[ansdowne] and Duke of D[evonshire] who are acquainted with the War Office details, the proposals for delivering what is looked for as a final solution of the difficulty, involving a large increase to the Army expenditure, is practically confided to two Members assisted by the W.O. authorities. The Queen therefore again reverts to what she previously desired me to represent to the D[uke] of D[evonshire], *viz.* that the Committee ought to have consulted some "outside" opinion. I have told H.M. that the Duke thought such opinion had already been obtained by means of the Wantage Committee, and that any further examination of witnesses may delay matters.

I cannot, however, conceal the fact that the Queen does not consider the whole matter without anxiety. Yours very truly, A. BIGGE.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

HATFIELD HOUSE, 20th December 1897.

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—There is only one observation which I ought to make with reference to the note I have just received from you. If I understand rightly, the Committee of Defence which has been working under the Duke of Devonshire *has* been in full communication with the Commander-in-Chief during its deliberations. They certainly had discretion to consult anyone they pleased. Yours very truly, SALISBURY.

Queen Victoria to Sir Arthur Bigge.

OSBORNE, 20th Dec. 1897.—Sir Arthur should tell Lord Salisbury that Lord Wolseley has the same views as to this system as the Duke of Devonshire and Lord Lansdowne, and the names of the Commission or Committee she has heard of are again people who agree with these two gentlemen. General Brackenbury, moreover, did all the mischief on the

Duke of Devonshire's very bad Committee, which led to so much trouble, and he would be of no use. We want people who will state independent views. Nothing will else be done.

The Duke of Connaught to Sir Arthur Bigge.

BAGSHOT PARK, SURREY, 22nd December 1897.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—Pray thank the Queen for letting you send me Lord Salisbury's letter. I am glad the Government propose to do something, but I fear that much more will be required if our Army is to be really efficient. A *bona fide* free ration is only what a soldier is told he will get before he enlists, and it will certainly remove a first excuse for complaint.

I have never liked the deferred pay ; theoretically no doubt it sounds a first-rate thing, but practically it has acted as an incentive for many men to leave the colours who would otherwise stay on for their twelve years and make most valuable soldiers. I am especially glad to hear that it is proposed to let a portion of the men rejoin from the Reserve without paying back their deferred pay. I am very doubtful how the grouping of battalions into four will help Army organisation, but I believe the Civil authorities at the War Office are keen about it. I won't bother you with a longer letter, as you are fully acquainted already with my views on Army organisation.

I saw Wolseley yesterday at Sandhurst ; he seemed very bitter against the action and views of the civil officials at the War Office. I hear on all sides that the men in several of the British regiments, employed in the Frontier war, were found too young and wanting in stamina and hence in courage. I don't know what the sick rate has been, but I am told that some of the regiments are tremendously reduced, and that other regiments are being moved up to take their places.

With all the compliments of the season, Believe me, yours very sincerely, ARTHUR.

The Earl of Elgin to Queen Victoria.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, CALCUTTA, 23rd Dec. 1897.—

The Viceroy presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and has the honour to acknowledge your Majesty's letter of 19th November. He hopes he will be excused for not having answered this letter last week. He was anxious to have from Sir W. Lockhart a reply to a communication he had addressed to him before endeavouring to deal with the very important questions raised by your Majesty.

Your Majesty asks the Viceroy to express his opinion on the point whether "the continuation and indefinite prolongation of these punitive expeditions is really justifiable at the cost of many valuable lives." No one regrets more than the Viceroy the distressing losses sustained, but it was clearly foreseen, when it was determined to send an expedition against the Afridis, that there were many circumstances which combined to make it dangerous. The nature of the country, so far as known, and the character of the tribesmen, were enough of themselves to ensure a stubborn resistance. The Government of India wished to leave nothing to chance, and they accordingly employed a very strong force, and this, coupled with the excellent dispositions of Sir W. Lockhart, prevented the combined opposition at the passes into Tirah, which had been anticipated, and which might easily, as the experience of Dargai showed, have resulted in desperate fighting, and severe losses. A weaker force in a single day might have had to incur a wholly disproportionate sacrifice to achieve the same results.

But our very success in preventing or overcoming combined opposition has resulted in the more recalcitrant sections of the tribes adopting a guerilla form of warfare which is often the most harassing to disciplined troops, and which puts it out of the power of the most skilful General to bring about a final and conclusive issue. Sir W. Lockhart writes that he is in

great hope that his next series of operations will bring the Afridis to their knees. He will visit their winter settlements, and the Viceroy has in former letters explained the effect upon the tribe of action of this kind. But if they still hold out there will probably be no alternative but to wait till the winter is over and if necessary resume the offensive then.

This being in brief the military situation, your Majesty asks if the Viceroy considers the campaign justifiable. He very respectfully represents that to abstain from carrying out the avowed objects of the campaign, however protracted or regrettable the delay, would result in consequences of the most serious nature. In the case of the Afridis the quarrel was of their own seeking, there had been no provocation when they wantonly broke the conditions of a long-established agreement. No one can allege that the terms on which peace is offered to them are severe. But your Majesty long ago pointed out to the Viceroy that it was necessary not only to settle the present quarrel, but to prevent if possible the occurrence of future outbreaks. The Viceroy does not hesitate to say that, though it is impossible to provide absolutely for the future, there is one condition which would be fatal to any hope of continued peace, and that is to leave in the minds of the tribesmen a doubt of the power and determination of the Government of India to insist on demands they have deliberately put forward. Once compel them to see that a resistance, however stubborn, will certainly be overcome sooner or later, and there is more chance of the lesson of this year abiding in their memories for some space of time. . . .

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

23rd Dec. 1897.—Humble duty. I have telegraphed to Lord Cromer to ensure requisite assistance to the troops in the front if it is required.

He and the Sirdar must have a perfectly free hand, or we may get into dangerous confusion.

Sir Gordon Sprigg¹ to Sir Arthur Bigge.

TREASURY, CAPE TOWN, 29th December 1897.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of 6th inst. accompanied by the portrait of her Majesty, sent to me by the desire of the Queen, was delivered this morning. I recognise in the portrait a faithful representation of her Majesty as I saw her in front of St. Paul's Cathedral on 22nd of June. No gift in the power of her Majesty to bestow could be more highly valued by me personally or as the humble Prime Minister of the Cape Colony.

I have to request that you will convey to the Queen my grateful thanks for the thoughtful consideration shown by her Majesty in sending me this token of her regard, which will be for ever appreciated by my children's children. Yours very faithfully, J. GORDON SPRIGG.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 31st Dec. 1897.—This is the last day of this ever memorable and eventful year, which can never be forgotten and was so gratifying to me, but also it has brought such misfortune and sorrows. I have lost four dear friends, including dearest Mary, and my good, faithful maid, Annie Macdonald.

¹ Prime Minister of Cape Colony.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE TO CHAPTER XIV

For Queen Victoria and her people the outstanding event of the year 1898 was the recovery for civilisation of the Soudan, which had been evacuated in 1885 after General Gordon's death. At the close of 1897 the dervishes began to advance and to threaten the territory, reaching to Dongola and Berber, which had been regained since 1896. On 1st January, 1898, Sir Herbert Kitchener asked for British troops to be sent up the Nile and for reinforcements from home. Then on 8th April his British and Egyptian forces stormed the strong zariba in which Mahmoud, the Khalifa's lieutenant, had entrenched himself on the river Atbara, and gained a complete victory. The decisive battle of the campaign was fought on 2nd September under the walls of Omdurman, where the dervishes charged again and again with the most reckless courage, only to be overwhelmed and slaughtered wholesale by the Sirdar's steady troops. The Khalifa himself escaped. Two days later the Egyptian and British flags were hoisted over the ruined Palace of Khartoum, and a religious service was held where Gordon was killed.

The news was received at home with profound and universal satisfaction, and the Queen was the interpreter of public feeling in cabling at once to offer Sir Herbert Kitchener a peerage. The cable did not reach him for more than a fortnight, largely because he immediately proceeded farther up the Nile with a flotilla of gunboats and a considerable body of troops. After disposing of a dervish force and camp on the way, he found at Fashoda, some 600 miles up, a French party, under M. Marchand, of eight white men and 100 Senegalese, who had come across from the French Congo and had hoisted the French flag, but who were at the mercy of any serious dervish attack. As M. Marchand refused to retire without orders from his Government, the Sirdar, without interfering with the French flag, hoisted the Egyptian flag, and, leaving a sufficient force to defend the post, returned to Khartoum to report.

There was acute tension for some five or six weeks between

the British and French Governments. Lord Salisbury had warned Paris in 1897 that his Government entirely adhered to the declaration of Lord Rosebery's Government that a French advance into the Nile valley would be regarded by England as an unfriendly act; and, after the reoccupation of Khartoum, he instructed Sir Edmund Monson to inform M. Delcassé, the French Foreign Minister, that the territories subject to the Khalifa had passed by right of conquest to the British and Egyptian Governments, and that this right was not open to discussion. From this position he never swerved; and he was firmly and unanimously supported by British public opinion, Lord Rosebery's strong approval being echoed by Sir William Harcourt and other Liberal leaders. M. Delcassé presented no consistent case in reply; but persistently evaded a decision, the honour of the French flag being his main concern. Events at the end of October made it easier for him to yield. M. Marchand quitted his post on his own responsibility, leaving a subordinate in command, and came down the Nile to Cairo on the way to Paris; and Lord Kitchener arrived in England, and was acclaimed with enthusiasm. The City of London gave him its freedom on 4th November; and at the banquet on that evening Lord Salisbury was able to announce that the French Government had come to the conclusion that the occupation of Fashoda was of no value to them and must cease.

British policy achieved this year another important diplomatic success in the settlement of the Cretan question. Germany and Austria, who had clogged the wheels of the European concert in 1897, withdrew their ships in April, thus leaving England, Russia, France, and Italy to deal with the problem. The admirals, under the leadership of the British admiral, Sir Gerald Noel, were engaged in negotiations over proposals of administrative reform, when on 6th September an outbreak of Bashibazouks in Candia led to a massacre of Christian inhabitants and the killing of the British Vice-Consul and several British soldiers and sailors, and was not subdued till the town had been bombarded by the fleet. The admirals secured the disarmament of the Mussulmans and the punishment of the ringleaders. The four Powers by an ultimatum forced the Sultan to withdraw the Turkish troops, and then, on Russia's motion, appointed Prince George of Greece High Commissioner of Crete. The Prince was welcomed by Mohammedans as well as Greeks on his arrival in December; and public opinion in England was satisfied.

These achievements threw into the shade what had appeared earlier in the year to be the weakness of British policy in the Far East. In March Russia obtained from China a lease for twenty-five years of Port Arthur (which she proposed to fortify and turn into a naval port) and of Talienwan, both in the Liaotung Peninsula, together with the right to construct a railway across Manchuria to connect these ports with the Trans-Siberian line. In the face of this open breach of Russian promises, the British Government went no farther than to register an emphatic protest, and to obtain, as a make-weight, the lease of Wei-hai-wei.

In the British Empire, trouble again threatened from South Africa. An Afrikaner Bond Ministry, under Mr. Schreiner, obtained office at the Cape. In the Transvaal Mr. Kruger, who was re-elected President by a large majority, persistently refused the franchise to the Uitlanders, and maintained that the London Convention gave no suzerainty to the Queen. In Australia a plébiscite revealed a majority for the proposed Commonwealth in all the Colonies, but one not legally sufficient to secure the adoption of the scheme.

On the night of 15th February the United States battleship *Maine*, while lying in the harbour of Havana, was destroyed by an explosion, and over 250 of her officers and crew perished. American opinion held—what was never proved—that this was due to a treacherous Spanish submarine attack; and the war, which had long threatened between the United States and Spain over Cuba, broke out in April. It was quickly over. Two crushing victories by the American Navy—on 1st May in the Philippine harbour of Manila, and on 3rd July off Santiago (Cuba)—and a successful American invasion of the island of Cuba, brought Spain early in August to sue for peace. By the treaty she gave up all claim to the sovereignty of Cuba, ceded Porto Rico and her other West Indian possessions to the United States, and also the Philippines, for which last cession she was paid £4,000,000. American feeling was grateful to Britain, which had been the first European Power to proclaim neutrality, and had discouraged any European intervention.

Both Russia and Germany made serious additions this year to their naval strength; but at the end of August the Tsar surprised the world by issuing an invitation to the Powers to join in a Peace Conference which should bring about a general reduction of armaments, or at least a cessation in their increase. Sympathetic replies were sent. The

German Emperor, accompanied by the Empress, made this autumn a spectacular tour to the Holy Land. The Sultan gave them a brilliant reception at Constantinople on their way; and in Jerusalem the Emperor not only attended the consecration of a German Protestant Church, but gratified the Roman Catholic Germans in Palestine by securing for their religious use, as a special favour from the Turkish authorities, a peculiarly sacred site on Mount Zion. On 10th September the Empress of Austria, who had made friends in Great Britain on the occasions when she came here to hunt, was assassinated at Geneva by an Italian anarchist. In the Netherlands there were great rejoicings over Queen Wilhelmina's coming of age and enthronement. France was almost wholly absorbed throughout the year by the Dreyfus case and the passions roused by it. It was mainly a fight between the Civil Power and the Army, between justice and anti-Semitic prejudice, and in the turmoil the Méline Ministry was succeeded by the Dupuy Ministry. Early in the year M. Zola issued his famous appeal to the public on Dreyfus' behalf, a letter to the President, beginning *J'accuse*. Before the close of the year he was an exile in England; but Mme Dreyfus had succeeded in persuading the Cour de Cassation to review her husband's case, though no decision had yet been arrived at.

There being so much instability abroad, the British Parliament was largely occupied with increasing the Army and rendering it more efficient, and with measures to ensure that the Navy should reach a two-Power standard—i.e. should be equal in numbers and superior in power to the fleets of any two other countries. The principal domestic measure passed into law was the Irish Local Government Bill, in the charge of Mr. Gerald Balfour, the Chief Secretary, to set up County Councils, with certain safeguards, in Ireland. This year the Liberal Party lost another leader. Sir William Harcourt, their leader in the Commons, who, since Lord Rosebery's resignation in 1896, had practically acted as leader of the whole party, wrote in December to Mr. Morley that, as the party was "rent by sectional disputes and personal interests," he proposed to take up "an independent position in the House of Commons," and Mr. Morley sadly expressed his sympathy and approval.

Two great statesmen passed away, Mr. Gladstone in May, Prince Bismarck in July. Although both were in retirement, national mourning in each case was deep and sincere.

CHAPTER XIV

1898

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 1st Jan. 1898.—A new year! I dare not look forward, but thank God for His merciful protection and help thus far, and pray that He will restore peace and harmony to the whole world. May He preserve all most dear to me, my beloved children and grandchildren, and all kind friends, keeping all harm and ill from them; may my health continue as good as it is now, for which I am truly thankful!

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

4th Jan. 1898.—Did Lord Salisbury notice Sir F. Grenfell's¹ telegram begging for "matured soldiers." It is terrible that our small army is in a state to justify such an appeal from a General responsible for preparing a campaign. Could any stronger proof be required of the utter weakness of our system? The Queen must insist on her Army being saved from this condition. There should be no immature soldiers in regiments likely to be sent on service.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

5th Jan. 1898.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty to your Majesty respectfully thanks your Majesty for your note of last night. He fears that the evil, though a great one, is not easily curable. It

¹ Commanding the forces in Egypt; afterwards Lord Grenfell. The "matured soldiers" were required for the further advance of Sir Herbert Kitchener's expedition up the Nile.

arises from the fact that only a very limited number of men can be tempted into the service; and that, only when they are young. They become matured soldiers in due time; but until that time comes they must be *immature* soldiers; and Commanding Officers will press to obtain as many mature and as few immature soldiers as possible. Of course, the short service system makes matters worse; by diminishing the proportion of mature soldiers. But the school which defends this system is unhappily possessed of a great preponderance just now.

*Sir Theodore Martin*¹ to Queen Victoria.

31 ONSLOW SQUARE, S.W., 13th Jan. 1898.—Sir Theodore Martin presents his humble duty to the Queen. He is now able to assure her Majesty that all the leading Journals will adopt a quite altered tone towards the Emperor of Germany and the German people. He has assurances of this from the *Standard*, *Telegraph*, *Morning Post*, *Daily News*, *Daily Chronicle*, the *Globe*, the *St. James's Gazette*, and the *Pall Mall Gazette*. The *Times* Editor he hopes to see to-morrow. They all feel that it would be unwise to create irritation, especially having regard to the very modified tone of the leading German papers. Even in to-day's papers Sir Theodore reads the good effect of having called attention to the danger that might arise. He encloses a paragraph from the *Pall Mall Gazette* of last night, which indicates very clearly the attitude which he feels sure will now be general. *Punch* has been very offensive in its treatment of the German Emperor, but Sir Theodore Martin is not without hope of getting it to drop its ridicule and caricatures. They are not liked by the English public, but must have been very irritating to the Germans. The blame will be with Germany, if there is any disturbance of the conciliatory temper of our principal journalists.

¹ A prominent man of letters who had been honoured by the friendship of the Queen, at whose desire he had written *The Life of the Prince Consort*. On this occasion he undertook a confidential mission from her Majesty to the Press.

Sir Theodore had for some time felt uneasy at the war of sarcasm and invective which was going on between the papers of the two countries, and it is a source of great satisfaction to think that this state of things is now likely to cease.

14th Jan.—Sir Theodore Martin . . . has to-day seen the Editor of *The Times*, and finds him quite in accord with the other journalists mentioned in Sir Theodore's letter of yesterday. One may therefore conclude, that everything here is in the right train now, and will remain so if the German papers will only be temperate and civil in the future.

It is most unfortunate that there should be very generally prevailing in this country a very bitter feeling against the Germans. Everyone whom Sir Theodore has seen has mentioned this, and none more emphatically than the Editor of *The Times*. Commercial rivalry has something to do with it ; but not very much.

16th Jan.—Sir Theodore Martin . . . is happy further to report that the Editor of *Punch* has promised to follow the same course as the leading journals. Sir Theodore regards this as very important, for caricatures are much more mischievous than newspaper paragraphs.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

21st Jan. 1898.—. . . The question of selecting the next Viceroy of India is one of some difficulty. . . .

[Lord Salisbury] is disposed to think that there are two members of the Government, either of whom would make a good Viceroy, if he would go. The first is Sir Michael Hicks Beach. It is possible he might go, because he has suffered much from agricultural distress ; and the kind of illness he has suffered from is not of a kind which is made worse by India. He is a very able man, with a clear judgment, strong resolution, and a good judge of men. The other is Mr. Curzon. It would probably be necessary to give him a peerage ; but that is of small importance, as he must be a Peer

some day. He is a man, in many respects, of great ability, as well as of extraordinary industry and knowledge. Lord Salisbury has had an opportunity of observing him closely for two years and a half; and is of opinion that his character and powers have developed with official work. His only fault is occasional rashness of speech in the House of Commons; but he would have no temptation to that error at Calcutta. He has now a strong *physique*.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

OSBORNE, 25th Jan. 1898.—. . . Think it is most desirable to try to be on best terms with Russia, it is the only way to keep Germany in check.

Sir E. Monson's telegram received Friday is very important. Think a good understanding with Russia will also keep France quiet. What can have caused the change in the policy of Russia about Crete? Germany behaves very badly.

Pray see Colonel Grierson before he returns. William has talked openly to him.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 27th Jan. 1898.—Heard when we were at breakfast from Mr. Forbes that dear old Mrs. Symon at the shop in the village at Balmoral had passed away. Though she had recovered so well while we were there and greeted us as kindly as ever, she caught a chill a few days ago and was carried off by bronchitis. We had found her and her good amusing husband in the village when we first came to Balmoral in 1848, and we built them their new house and shop. She was quite an institution; and everyone, high and low, used to go and see her.

• 30th Jan.—Hear that the Sultan absolutely refuses to hear of George of Greece going to Crete, and does not mind the grave consequences which may arise from his refusal.

Spoke to [Mr. Lang]¹ for some time after dinner. He is a very interesting and clever man, a Scotchman, and was at Oxford. He has a very hard time at Portsea, having 40,000 parishioners, and the population is not very pleasant, particularly the artizans, who are very difficult, sceptical, and full of prejudices. The sailors are true and warm-hearted, but, as well as the soldiers, somewhat difficult to manage. Mr. Lang has thirteen curates to assist him, and they all live together.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.
[Cypher Telegram.]

OSBORNE, 30th Jan. 1898.—The Sultan seems very determined, backed I suppose by Germany. But will he be able to resist Russia, France, Italy, and ourselves if we are united and firm? Cannot help feeling anxious about Niger, especially considering agitated state of French public.

Conclude Russian Government was made aware of your telegram to Sir N. O'Connor of 21st, stating that orders had been sent for withdrawal of our ships from Port Arthur, and made use of it at Pekin.

Further losses on North-West frontier are very serious. Surely Sir George White and Sir William Lockhart ought not both to leave India until matters are in a more satisfactory condition.

*Sir Arthur Bigge to the Duke of Norfolk.*²
[Draft.] Private. OSBORNE, 2nd February 1898.

MY DEAR DUKE OF NORFOLK,—The Queen desires me to write to you on the following subject.

Lately, a petition bearing the signatures of over 336,000 women in Great Britain and Ireland, including some of social position, has been presented to H.M. praying that Convents should be brought under some sort of public control. It is needless to enumerate the reasons given in support of this request. Probably some are exaggerated, others fictitious. But I am

¹ Then Vicar of Portsea; Bishop of Stepney 1901–1908, Archbishop of York 1908–1928, and since 1928 Archbishop of Canterbury.

² The 15th Duke (1847–1917), the foremost Roman Catholic layman in England.

sure you will understand that the Queen cannot read such an appeal relating to the condition of any of her subjects without a feeling of pain mingled with anxiety that grievances, if existent, should be remedied.

H.M. says you are so large-minded in all matters concerning your Church that she feels safe in turning to you, privately, for information about this matter, on which it is, I imagine, not proposed to take official action, and over which the Queen trusts that anything like public agitation may be avoided. H.M. has heard that in more recent days the laws of your Church have been so far modified as to enable those who, after having taken vows, find themselves unsuited to Conventual life to resume their freedom. On the other hand, the above-mentioned Memorialists maintain that this is impossible in the British Isles. . . .

H.M. knows that one of your sisters is a nun ; and this fact adds to the confidence with which H.M. seeks for your valuable views upon this important question. Yours very truly, A. BIGGE.

The Duke of Norfolk to Sir Arthur Bigge.

ARUNDEL CASTLE, 4th February 1898.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—I have received your letter and I hope you will express to the Queen how much I feel the delicacy and consideration shown by her Majesty in dealing in this way with the matter brought before her. I will do my best to supply the information as fully as I can.

Will you please send me a copy of the Petition ? Believe me, yours very truly, NORFOLK.¹

The Maharajah Holkar to Queen Victoria.

INDORE PALACE, 5th February 1898.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY,—I have the pleasure to forward for your Majesty's gracious

¹ Sir Arthur Bigge forwarded the Petition, adding : " Pray understand that the Queen never intended to ask for answers to the various statements of the memorial, but for your opinion upon the general question which it raises."

acceptance a small parcel containing sugared tilli seeds in pursuance of the immemorial custom of the Hindus on the occasion of the dawn of the Hindu Solar New Year in token of the highest regard and esteem that I feel for your Imperial Majesty. I remain, may it please your Imperial Majesty, Yours most obediently, SHIVAJEE RAO HOLKAR.

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

COLONIAL OFFICE, 2nd Feb. 1898.—Mr. Chamberlain presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and begs to submit a copy of a despatch from the Governor of New Zealand [Lord Ranfurly] requesting him to lay before your Majesty and his Royal Highness, the Duke of York, an invitation from both Houses of Parliament of New Zealand to their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York to visit New Zealand.

In 1893 a unanimous invitation from all the Colonies of Australasia was sent to their Royal Highnesses, and although it could not be accepted at the time, some hope was held out that their Royal Highnesses might visit Australia at a later date.

Mr. Chamberlain has no doubt that, if there were the least expectation that a similar invitation would now be accepted, the other Colonies of Australasia would eagerly join in it, and that the visit of their Royal Highnesses would be made the occasion for an unprecedented demonstration of affection to your Majesty and loyalty to the Throne.

Mr. Chamberlain understands, however, from Lord Salisbury that your Majesty does not feel able to approve of the acceptance of this invitation, and he therefore proposes, with your Majesty's permission, to decline it in suitable terms, after consulting the Duke of York as to the reasons which should be given and the exact form of the reply.

Mr. Chamberlain humbly begs to be informed if your Majesty has any instructions to give upon this matter.

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to Mr. Chamberlain.*

OSBORNE, 6th Feb. 1898.—The Queen thanks Mr. Chamberlain for his letter enclosing the despatch from New Zealand inviting the Duke and Duchess of York to visit that Colony.

The Queen duly appreciates the loyal and kind wish of the New Zealanders to see her grandchildren. But there are *very strong* reasons against it, which she feels cannot be disregarded. The Duke of York is the only surviving son of the Prince of Wales, and the only available Prince in this country, besides the Prince of Wales himself and the Duke of Connaught (both very much overworked) able to perform all that is expected of them, and to help the Queen, now in her seventy-ninth year, who has lost the able and affectionate help of her dear son-in-law Prince Henry of Battenberg. But this is not all. Life is so uncertain, that the risk of sending the Duke of York so far away and exposing him to the innumerable dangers of fatigue, climate, etc., are too great; and it would indeed be tempting providence were we to send him so far away.

The Queen cannot but think that Mr. Chamberlain will understand her strong reasons for declining this proposal.

Mr. Chamberlain to the Duke of York.

COLONIAL OFFICE, 10th February 1898.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to your Royal Highness the accompanying copy of a despatch from the Governor of New Zealand, requesting that I would convey to her Majesty the Queen and to your Royal Highness an invitation addressed by the Ministry and by both Houses of Parliament to yourself and to her Royal Highness the Duchess of York to visit that Colony.

I have duly submitted the matter to the Queen in a letter, of which a copy is enclosed, and her Majesty has been graciously pleased to reply in terms which, as your Royal Highness will perceive, preclude the possibility of the invitation being accepted.

I enclose a draft of the despatch¹ which I now propose to address to the Governor of New Zealand, if your Royal Highness concurs in its expressions. I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servant, J. CHAMBERLAIN.

[Copy.] *The Duke of York to Mr. Chamberlain.*

Private. YORK COTTAGE, SANDRINGHAM, 11th February 1898.

DEAR MR. CHAMBERLAIN,—I have to thank you for your letter and enclosures concerning the invitation from the Governor of New Zealand, received this morning. The last paragraph in the draft of your intended answer requires a slight alteration, as I have never yet visited New Zealand (although I visited each Colony in Australia), and therefore one cannot say "renew" my visit.

I regret that Lord Ranfurly did not see fit to ascertain from you whether the invitation would be acceptable or not, before he forwarded the official invitation, as I now fear that your inevitable answer may possibly be misinterpreted in the Colony. I should like to tell you privately that the Duchess and I would have been quite ready and willing to accept the invitation and would be so at any time. I know the Queen has very strong views on the subject, as we have seen by her letter, and of course her wishes are law. . . .

Mr. Henry White² to the Duke of York.³

AMERICAN EMBASSY, 20th February 1898.

SIR,—I have received telegraphic instructions from the Secretary of State at Washington to convey to your Royal Highness and to the Duchess of York

¹ The draft despatch contained the substance of the Queen's letter to Mr. Chamberlain, and added: "The Duke of York desires me to add an expression of the warm thanks of himself and the Duchess for the invitation, and to say that he sincerely regrets he is unable to renew his visit to New Zealand, and to bring his wife to see a country which he remembers with great pleasure and affection."

² Served for many years as U.S. Secretary of Embassy in London; afterwards U.S. Ambassador, first to Italy and then to France.

³ Sent by the Duke of York to the Queen.

an expression of the sincere thanks of my Government and of our Navy for the kind words of condolence with them in the terrible disaster to the *Maine*,¹ which Captain Keppel communicated to me on behalf of your Royal Highnesses.

I am directed furthermore to add that the Navy especially appreciates the sympathy of so eminent a sailor as your Royal Highness in the calamity which has befallen it.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your Royal Highness's most obedient servant, HENRY WHITE.

Private. Memorandum by the Duke of Norfolk.

26th Feb. 1898.²— . . . The fact remains that, whereas a great number of Roman Catholic girls in England at the present day enter convents, their relations are perfectly satisfied with the condition of affairs. I need not say that I know a very great number of Catholics who have daughters and sisters who are nuns. I know hardly a Catholic home of any position in the country which has not at least one representative in a convent (I do not suggest they are all in cloistered orders). Among my own personal friends, I may remark that sisters or daughters of the following have entered convents: Lord Arundell of Wardour, Lord Gainsborough, Lord Abingdon, Lord Denbigh, Lord Morris, the Lord Chief Justice [Lord Russell of Killowen], Mr. Justice Day, Mr. Justice Mathew, Lord Walter Kerr, Sir Humphrey de Trafford. Two of my own sisters have done so, two of Lord Clifford's, three of Lord Petre's, four of Lord Herries'; and there are very many others personally known to me. In the old Catholic families and in the families of those who have joined the Roman Catholic Church this is alike the case.

¹ The blowing up of the United States battleship *Maine* in Havana harbour, which brought on the war between the United States and Spain. See Introductory Note.

² In the first part of the Memorandum, the Duke of Norfolk detailed the careful arrangements made by the authorities of his Church for the control and supervision of convents. We print the conclusion of the Memorandum.

Yet I have never heard from any one of these fathers and brothers a single suggestion of anxiety as to the safety and well-being of those whom they have allowed to go into the cloister. It sometimes happens that parents or brothers, from reasons of affection, sometimes, perhaps, from more worldly sentiments, regret the step their relation is about to take, and even endeavour to prevent their taking it. But even from them I have never heard the smallest suggestion that they did not feel perfectly secure as to the future well-being of their relative, so far as freedom and happiness are concerned. It is our common experience that those who have gone forth from their homes and given up everything to join the religious state appear to have won for themselves, even in this world, a happiness to which we cannot hope to attain.

But it is not only our personal communications with our relations who are inmates of convents which convince us of the absence of any need for State interference. We have among us many friends who, having spent a part of their lives as nuns, have come to the conclusion that they were not called to the religious state, and have returned to the world. Some of these have done so by their own wish ; others because their superiors did not feel that they were suited to the religious state. Many of the latter, especially, deeply regret the fact and the decision to which their superiors came ; but from no one of them, nor from any relation of any one of them, have I ever heard the least suggestion that the liberty or the well-being of any single inmate of the convent was unduly hampered or restrained. On the other hand, I may remark that there are cases of women who have been in convents delivering lectures and publishing books as to pretended revelations of convent life. I believe I am justified in saying that in no one such case has the character of the individual been found to bear the test of investigation.

It is not surprising, therefore, that there is no

question which more thoroughly arouses the indignation and more deeply wounds the feeling of Catholics in this country than the suggestion that our convents require the inspection or the control of the State. It is not only that as Catholics we resent the suggestion that our own ecclesiastical authorities are incompetent, or unwilling to insist on proper safeguards ; but we naturally feel it, to put it in mild language, an astounding impertinence that we should be told we are wanting in proper care for the happiness and well-being of those nearest and dearest to us. I have no wish to criticise the perhaps well-meant anxiety of those who are promoting this movement of enquiry, but I own that I resent the suggestion that their care and affection for our daughters and sisters are greater than our own.

The communities themselves would most deeply resent any such interference as is suggested. The old established orders cling with all the glory of long tradition to everything that pertains to their rule and the regulations which ensure that it shall be properly observed ; and the suggestion that, because as free subjects they have banded themselves together for what they believe to be a righteous and holy object, they have thereby justified their fellow-countrymen in regarding them as needing the control and interference of the State and as unable to judge for themselves or afraid to appeal if necessary to their friends, is regarded by them as a cruel impertinence and injury, and an uncalled-for violation of their privacy and freedom.

But there is one form of inspection which every convent would welcome with joy. The gate of the cloister is open to the Queen, and if her Majesty would graciously use her royal prerogative she would rejoice the hearts of those who yield to none of her subjects in loyalty and love. Her Majesty could then converse with our nuns and look into their lives, and her heart would be gladdened by what she would learn of the happiness and peace to be found in these

sacred homes from which so many prayers rise for her to God. NORFOLK.

[Copy.] *Sir Arthur Bigge to the Duke of Norfolk.*

WINDSOR CASTLE, 1st March 1898.

MY DEAR DUKE,—The Queen desires me to let you know how grateful she is to you for your Memo. upon the Petition on suggested State Control of *Convents*.

H.M. has read it with deep interest, and says it has made her feel much more comfortable and reassured upon the general question. H.M. fully appreciates the fact that the views given are your own without your having submitted the matter to official consideration.

You are at liberty to mention it privately to Cardinal Vaughan. Yours very truly, A. B.

Bishop Davidson to Sir Arthur Bigge.

FARNHAM CASTLE, SURREY, 6th March 1898.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—I have read the Duke of Norfolk's memorandum with very great interest. He puts his case admirably, and *on the whole* I agree with him in thinking it undesirable that a Bill should be introduced (even if any Government was prepared to do so). But he certainly leaves some points untouched. . . .

On the whole the Duke has the balance of argument on his side. Ever yours, RANDALL WINTON.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 10th March 1898.—Mr. Balfour with his humble duty to your Majesty begs humbly to inform your Majesty that Naval estimates occupied the whole evening. These estimates provide the unexampled sum of twenty-three and a half millions for the naval service. Yet these estimates, gigantic as they are, do not seem to be in excess of our requirements; indeed, Sir C. Dilke, Lord C. Beresford, and other critics maintained to-night that they are if anything inadequate. . . . Perhaps the most remarkable picture of the debate was the sense

of uneasiness pervading the various speeches, I mean the sense that we were passing through a period of national difficulty and crisis, which might at no distant date require us to appeal to our material power, and first of all of course the Navy.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

"VICTORIA AND ALBERT," CHERBOURG, 11th March 1898.—Arrived here at 4.30 after a rough disagreeable crossing, which tried me a good deal, though I was not sick. We had been told that the sea would be perfectly smooth, but it began rolling soon after I went below, and in the middle of the Channel there was one lurch just as if the ship had had a blow, the port hole burst half open, the sea came in, and the chairs were sent spinning. The maids, steward, and footmen all rushed in, in a great state, and found part of the cabin full of water. I was taken in the rolling chair across to my bedroom, where I got on to the sofa, feeling much upset. Was very thankful when we got into Cherbourg at last. We had been quite misinformed about the weather.

The Queen Regent of Spain to Queen Victoria.
[Translation.]

17th March 1898.—. . . Full of trust in you I am writing to explain my difficult position, convinced that you will support me with your powerful help and good advice. So far Spain has struggled alone against all difficulties and overcome them one after another. Now comes the war with Cuba: all this our poor country has done and without foreign aid, she has given her children for the fatherland, her money for the war, and is even now ready for every sacrifice. We should long ago have brought the war in Cuba to an end, had America remained *neutral*, but she continually sent money, munitions, and weapons to the rebels; and now, when the insurrection is nearly over, the Americans intend to provoke us and bring about a war, and this I would avoid at all

costs. But there are limits to everything, and I cannot let my country be humbled by America. . . . The Committee of the so-called Cuban Republic is recognised and supported by the Government in New York, and its members are received in official circles as representatives of Cuba. But for this protection by America, the insurrection in Cuba would have been long ago suppressed. . . .

Until now I have not troubled anybody with my affairs, and I only do so now in order to preserve peace. I have applied to the Emperor of Austria, who promised me to approach the other Powers in order that common action may be taken for the preservation of peace; but I wished to address myself to you at the same time to beg you not to deny me your powerful protection. I know how with the greatest kindness you always interest yourself in my poor fatherless son—for *his* sake I beg you to help me. It would so distress me if England were not at one with the other Great Powers in this matter! . . .

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

CIMIEZ, 21st March 1898.—Feeling a good deal better. Louisa A[ntrim], Sir E. Monson, Lord James, the Bishop of Ripon, and Sir F. Edwards dined. Sir E. Monson hoped things were likely to improve between us and the French. Lord James also hoped this, and that various other matters would come right. He thought people ought not to be unreasonable about some of the demands made by China. I observed I could not quite understand why nobody was to have anything anywhere but ourselves, in which he quite concurred.

Mr. Balfour¹ to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

22nd March 1898.—Humble duty. At the Cabinet held to-day . . . instructions to her Majesty's Am-

¹ Lord Salisbury had gone to his villa at Beaulieu for his health, and Mr. Balfour was presiding at Cabinet Councils and acting as Foreign Secretary.

bassador at St. Petersburg expressing strong disapprobation, on the part of her Majesty's Government, of the occupation of Port Arthur were agreed to after long discussion.

Confidential instructions to her Majesty's Minister at Pekin were also determined on. The Yamen are to be requested not to alienate Wei-hai-wei and, if it is to be alienated, to give Great Britain the refusal of the place.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

CIMIEZ, 24th March 1898.—Lenchen and Beatrice, who joined me at tea, had been to see Affie on board the *Surprise*. He is not [at] all well, having hardly recovered from his recent illness, and is now unfortunately threatened with another complication, which may necessitate an operation.¹

[*Cypher Telegram.*] *Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.*

26th March 1898.—. . . Cabinet met yesterday and deliberated for more than three hours and a half until 7 p.m. The discussion was entirely confined to the policy to be pursued in the Far East; her Majesty's Ministers held the opinion, in which Mr. Balfour knows that Lord Salisbury concurs, that it was not worth while to promote a war with Russia in order to keep her out of Port Arthur: her influence at Pekin depends principally on her land position, and, though the possession of Port Arthur may augment it, the difference is not sufficient to justify hostilities. It was, however, thought desirable that Great Britain should maintain her position in the Gulf of Pechili, and in the neighbourhood of Pekin, by closing with the Chinese offer of the reversion of Wei-hai-wei.

[*Cypher Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to Mr. Balfour.*

CIMIEZ, 27th March 1898.—I am much pleased with the decision of the Cabinet which I thoroughly approve. It is I think important that the world at large should not have the impression that we will not

¹ The operation was successfully performed on 26th March.

let anyone but ourselves have anything, while at the same time we must secure our rights and influence.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

CIMIEZ, 1st April 1898.—Drove through the old town to the quay and went on board the *Surprise*, which had been moored alongside, so that I could easily walk up a gangway. Went into Affie's cabin, which is small and dark, and sat by his bed for half an hour. Thankful to have found him really much better.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

BEAULIEU, 1st April 1898.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully tenders his warmest thanks for your Majesty's gracious kindness to him.

The Spanish question is very grave; and Lord Salisbury would not like to advise your Majesty to give any undertaking to assist the Queen of Spain without consulting his colleagues; for any communication from this country to the United States, in the way of remonstrances, might arouse their susceptible feelings and produce a condition of some danger, without any corresponding advantage. At the same time Lord Salisbury thinks that your Majesty would not refuse to join in any course taken by all the other great Powers. But he doubts the expediency of action by them. It is more likely to help the war party in the United States than to weaken them.

The position of the Queen Regent of Spain is most lamentable and grievous. It is impossible not to feel the deepest sympathy for her.

Queen Victoria to Mr. Balfour.

CIMIEZ, 4th April 1898.—I trust the explanation in Parliament of our wise policy in China will be made very plainly and explicitly, so as to put a close to the very foolish and dangerous lies of many people in England.¹

¹ Mr. Balfour reported the next day that he had that afternoon made such a statement in debate in the House of Commons.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

CIMIEZ, 4th April 1898.—A beautiful day. Very anxious about Spain and the United States. Went to the Liserb garden with Louisa A. and sat in a sheltered spot, whilst she read to me. Leopold Hohenzollern came to luncheon, and was as pleasant as ever. Wrote a letter to the Queen of Spain, who has appealed to me, poor thing.¹

Took a lovely drive with Beatrice and Marie E., up the Corniche road, beyond the Observatory, turning down a steep narrow road, which passed close to the upper gate of Lord Salisbury's property. On our way down to Villefranche we met Leopold of Belgium walking. He had arrived in Villefranche Harbour on his yacht this morning. It was a most beautiful evening, and the view from the Corniche road was marvellous, on the one side the snow-clad Alps and on the other the sea. Lenchen had been to see Affie and brought a good account of him. Leopold of Belgium dined.

Sir Edmund Monson to Queen Victoria.

PARIS, 9th April 1898.—Sir Edmund Monson presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and respectfully submits that the portrait of your Majesty destined for presentation to Monsieur Faure was delivered at the Embassy in the forenoon of yesterday. On account of its size, and the risk of injury if unpacked at the Embassy, Sir Edmund took measures for its being at once received at the Elysée; and shortly afterwards was requested by the President to come to that place at half-past five o'clock to make the formal presentation on behalf of your Majesty.

At that hour, accompanied by Mr. Gosselin, your Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary, and by Mr. Monson, Private Secretary to the Ambassador, Sir Edmund attended at the Elysée, and on being introduced into

¹ See above, p. 236.

Monsieur Faure's presence stated that he had come to make formal presentation in accordance with your Majesty's commands.

The President then led the way to one of the garden saloons, in which the portrait had been placed ; and on seeing it was evidently quite overcome by the sight of so magnificent a present, for which he expressed himself entirely unprepared. He begged Sir Edmund to convey his thanks to your Majesty, adding that in a few days he would have the opportunity of expressing them more adequately in person.

In the course of further conversation Monsieur Faure said that the Chambers having now adjourned, he had changed the date of his own departure, and should leave Paris to-day by the afternoon express for Nice. If therefore it would be more convenient for your Majesty and for the Prince of Wales that the exchange of visits should take place on the Tuesday of next week instead of on the Wednesday, as at present fixed, he should be quite at your Majesty's disposal for that day.

The President, who was looking by no means as well as usual, admitted that he had not been able to shake off the effects of the attack of influenza from which he has been suffering, and that he looked forward with hope to entire change of air.

[*Telegram.*] *General Kitchener to Queen Victoria.*

ATBARA, 8th April 1898.—With humble duty to her Majesty. The British and Egyptian troops under my command attacked Mahmud's entrenched position on the Atbara this morning. After an artillery bombardment the place was carried at the point of the bayonet by the British Brigade and two Brigades of the Egyptian Army in line.

The dervishes stood well, but were completely swept out of their position by the gallant and steady attack of the troops. Meantime the cavalry engaged the enemy's horsemen and the reserve brigade supported them and protected our flanks and rear.

The dervishes lost very heavily, and their leader Mahmud is a prisoner in my hands.

I cannot speak too highly of the steadiness and fine discipline of the troops. . . . Total casualties, 10 killed, 90 wounded. Mahmud's force was from 12,000 to 14,000 strong. Most of the Emirs have been killed. Osman Digna escaped early. The result of this victory will doubtless greatly affect the future of the Soudan. All wounded carefully attended in hospital established here.

[*Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to General Kitchener.*

(?) 9th April 1898.—I congratulate you warmly on the brilliant victory so splendidly won by my own troops and those of the Khedive. I deplore the loss of my brave officers and men, am most anxious to hear how the wounded are progressing, in particular Col. Murray¹ of the Gordon Highlanders whom I know so well. Was Prince F. Teck with you? V. R. I.

[*Telegram.*] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

HOMBURG, 9th April (1898).—Most glad at good news. I beg to express my sincerest congratulations at the brilliant victory in the Soudan. The Sirdar has done his work ably and well. WILLIAM I. R.

[*Télégramme.*] *Queen Victoria to the Khedive Abbas.*

(?) 9 Avril 1898.—Je prie votre Altesse d'agréer mes félicitations les plus sincères à l'occasion de la grande victoire qui vient d'être si glorieusement gagnée par nos troupes réunies. V. R. I.

[*Télégramme.*] *The Khedive Abbas to Queen Victoria.*

LE CAIRE, 10 Avril (1898).—Je suis profondément touché des félicitations que votre Majesté Royale et Impériale a daigné m'adresser à l'occasion de la grande victoire remportée par nos troupes. Je suis aussi heureux de dire à votre Majesté que la valeur

¹ Afterwards Major-General Robert H. Murray, extra aide-de-camp to Queen Victoria.

déployée par les officiers et les soldats du contingent Anglais a largement contribué à cet éclatant succès. Que le Tout-Puissant accorde sa haute protection [à] nos braves soldats et les conduise de gloire en gloire !
 ABBAS HILMI.

[*Copy.*] *General Kitchener to Queen Victoria.*

ATBARA, 10th April 1898.—With my humble duty I beg to express to your Majesty on behalf of the officers and men our grateful thanks for your Majesty's gracious message which has been communicated to the Army. Prince Francis of Teck commanded his squadron of cavalry during the action and in the preliminary reconnaissances, and has shown himself to be an able and gallant soldier. Colonel Murray, gallantly leading his men over the trenches, was wounded in the left forearm. The bullet has been extracted, and the wound is not severe. All the wounded are doing well, and will be in hospital at Atbara Fort to-night. Boats have been prepared with awnings to float them down the Nile to the base hospital at Ginenetti. All the troops cheered enthusiastically on receiving your Majesty's gracious message. They are in the best of spirits, and are on their way back to their quarters on the Nile.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

CIMIEZ, 13th April 1898.—At half-past three M. Faure, the President of the Republic, who has been spending some days at the Riviera Palace, came to see me. Bertie received him below, and brought him up, and the three Princesses with the ladies were at the top of the stairs. I stood at the door of the drawing-room and asked him to sit down. He was very courteous and amiable, with a charming manner, so *grand seigneur* and not at all *parvenu*. He avoided all politics, but said most kindly how I was *aimée par la population*, that he hoped I was comfortably lodged, etc. Bertie and the others came in, and after a little

while the President's two gentlemen were presented, then he left.

19th April.—Already seventeen years ago that good Lord Beaconsfield died.

21st April.—War seems hopelessly declared, and the respective Spanish and United States Ministers have left their posts ! It is monstrous of America.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

22nd April 1898.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully submits that he believes the Powers are sorrowfully agreed that at this stage nothing further can be done to arrest the war. Even the very temperate and guarded note which was addressed by the Powers to the U.S. Government was very much resented by a large portion of the community as an undue interference, and had no other effect than to harden the war feeling. But of course your Majesty's Government will most gladly do anything which will bring hostilities to a conclusion. . . .

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

CIMIEZ, 25th April 1898.—Drove down to the Promenade des Anglais a little before eleven, with Beatrice, Marie E., and Drino to see a parade of the troops of the garrison. They were anyhow to have been inspected by the Governor, General Gebhardt, this morning, but he asked that the salute should be given to me. He met us on horseback before we got to the Promenade, and with his staff preceded us. Our carriage was drawn up near the pier, facing the Jardin Public. The troops, numbering about 2,000, marched past, General Caze, commanding the brigade, riding by at their head. It was a very pretty sight and the marching very fast, as is always the custom of the French. I complimented General Gebhardt on the appearance of the troops, in return for his expression of thanks for the *grand honneur* I had done them by being present. The Préfet also came up to the carriage, and in a very flowing speech expressed the

same. The day was splendid, but the glare of the white road very trying to the eyes.

The Queen Regent and the young Queen of the Netherlands arrived to lunch, just before two. Wilhelmina looked very sweet, and has a nice figure and charming expression. She has a very pleasing manner, and is as simple as three years ago. She is grown, but is not tall. Emma was as amiable as ever. Her youngest sister Elisabeth came with them. They remained talking with me a little while in the drawing-room after luncheon, and I gave Wilhelmina my Victoria and Albert Order, which was in fact intended for [her] when she attains her majority next August.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE, 10th May.—A dull dark morning, very warm. Lenchen breakfasted with us three, and the dear little York children came, looking very well. David is a delightful child, so intelligent, nice, and friendly. The baby is a sweet, pretty little thing. Out with Beatrice in the garden, which is looking very green and pretty, and there are quantities of iris out. After an early luncheon dressed for the Drawing-room, which was a very full one. I remained an hour.

Mrs. Gladstone to Queen Victoria.

HAWARDEN CASTLE, 14th May (1898).

DEAR MADAM,—I have been very much touched by your Majesty's gracious enquiries about my dear husband.

I am thankful to say Sir Thomas Smith's prescriptions have been valuable in allaying the trying pain and giving sleep, but it is most disappointing to me that alas he does not seem to gain strength. I am thankful Lord Rosebery saw him again to-day, for it was a pleasure to both.

Your dear Majesty only knows too well what anxiety is, and your ever tender kindness has encouraged me to write. I remain, your Majesty's devoted humble servant, CATHERINE GLADSTONE.

Lord George Hamilton to Queen Victoria.

INDIA OFFICE, 18th May 1898.—Lord George Hamilton with his humble duty to your Majesty has the honour to acknowledge the Queen's letter relative to the number of honours submitted for Europeans and Natives respectively.

Lord George sent to Lord Elgin some time back the expression of the Queen's wishes on this subject, and the Viceroy undertook to do his utmost to find suitable Natives for distinction, but the large proportion of the higher administrative offices held by Europeans makes it almost impossible to equalise in every submission the names of Europeans and Natives.

Including the list of honours just approved by her Majesty, the following appointments in the last two years have been made in the highest grades of the two orders, *viz.* 32 Europeans and 21 Natives. This is independent of increases of salutes sanctioned by the Queen; there is also every year a large number of Native titles given by the Viceroy, which do not come home for submission to your Majesty.

Lord Lansdowne proposes to include in his submission to your Majesty the names of three Indian Princes for the honour of the Bath.

Lord George will do his best to give effect to the Queen's wishes in this respect, as he thoroughly appreciates the policy and justice of the rule your Majesty desires to establish.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 19th May 1898.—Heard at breakfast time that poor Mr. Gladstone, who has been hopelessly ill for some time and had suffered severely, had passed away quite peacefully this morning at five. He was very clever and full of ideas for the bettering and advancement of the country, always most loyal to me personally, and ready to do anything for the Royal Family; but alas! I am sure involuntarily, he did at times a good deal of harm.

He had a wonderful power of speaking and carrying the masses with him.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

10 DOWNING STREET, 19th May 1898.—Mr. Balfour with his humble duty to your Majesty begs humbly to inform your Majesty that as soon as the House met at three o'clock he moved its adjournment for the day out of respect to the memory of Mr. Gladstone. At the same time he gave notice that to-morrow he would move an address to your Majesty for a public funeral and monument, unless the former were inconsistent with Mr. Gladstone's expressed wishes.

Queen Victoria to Mrs. Gladstone.

[Copy.] WINDSOR CASTLE, 19th May 1898.

DEAR MRS. GLADSTONE,—You must let me write again to say how very deeply I feel for you, and pray that God may support you in your present overwhelming grief, and that the thought that all your dear husband's sufferings are ended may bring you a ray of comfort.

I shall always gratefully remember how anxious he always was to help and serve me and mine in all that concerned my personal comfort and welfare, as well as that of my family. Pray do not think of answering my letters, but let your daughter do so.

Pray express my true sympathy to all your children who were so attached to their father. No wife ever was so devoted as you were, and the loss of the one object of your life is irreparable. Believe me, ever yours affectionately, V. R. I.

Mrs. Gladstone to Queen Victoria.

HAWARDEN CASTLE, 20th May (1898).

DEAR MADAM,—If I do not obey your Majesty's commands not to write myself, I feel I must use Mary's pen to express in my very own words my loving thanks and gratitude for the tender kindness of the two letters written to me by your Majesty. To have it in your own handwriting that he has been

a personal comfort to your Majesty is very precious to me, and what of all things he would have wished ; his devotion to your Majesty and the Prince Consort was unbounded, and I can never forget the deep emotion and reverence kindled in him by your Majesty after being permitted to see you in 1862.

This terrible long-suffering illness has only brought out in him that wonderful faith and trust in the Divine love and mercy which was the keynote of his whole life. "Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not denied him the request of his lips." How much better this ought to make me, but how I am to live without him I can only leave to God. Your Majesty's devoted humble servant, CATHERINE GLADSTONE.

The German Princes to Queen Victoria.

BERLIN, 22nd May 1898.—We kiss your hands, dearest Grandmama, for the lovely presents for our confirmation. WILLIAM, FRITZ.

Sir Francis Knollys to Sir Arthur Bigge.

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, 24th May 1898.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—The Prince of Wales desires me to ask if you think the Queen proposes to insert something in the Court Circular respecting Mr. Gladstone. H.R.H. says the feeling of sentiment about him is so very strong among all classes in the country, that he thinks her Majesty might perhaps wish a few words to appear on the day of the funeral. Yours sincerely, FRANCIS KNOLLYS.

The Prince of Montenegro¹ to Queen Victoria.
[Télégramme.]

CETTINJE, 25 Mai 1898.—Je viens de rentrer à Cetigne après un heureux voyage sur terre et sur les mers, dont vous êtes presque l'exclusive souveraine. Ai trouvé les miens en bonne santé, émus du récit de mes impressions de Londres, et de l'accueil gracieux

¹ The Prince had been on a visit to England, and had spent a couple of days as the Queen's guest at Balmoral.

dont j'ai été l'objet de la part de votre Majesté ; et, profondément reconnaissants, ils la bénissent avec moi. Ai passé la mémorable et heureuse journée de hier en pleine mer, et, si mes félicitations, qu'accompagnent mes remerciements, vous parviennent un peu tard, elles n'en sont pas moins absolument dévouées et sincères. NICOLAS.

Queen Victoria to the Prince of Montenegro.
[Télégramme.]

BALMORAL, 26 *Mai* 1898.—Je remercie votre Altesse de tout cœur de votre si bonne aimable dépêche et de tous les vœux que vous exprimez pour ma fête. Je suis charmée de vous savoir heureusement de retour et que vous avez rapporté un bon souvenir de votre trop court séjour en Angleterre, qui de notre côté nous a causé un vif plaisir. Soyez mon interprète auprès de la Princesse de mes sentiments affectueux. V. R. I.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.
[Telegram.]

(?) 27th *May* 1898.—The Queen wishes Lord Salisbury to know that it was entirely an oversight that no reference to Mr. Gladstone's death was made in Court Circular the day after that event. Her Majesty was reminded of the omission by the Prince of Wales and in consequence the following announcement¹ was agreed upon yesterday to appear on morning of funeral. . . .

[Telegram.] *Queen Victoria to Mrs. Gladstone.*

BALMORAL, 28th *May* 1898.—My thoughts are much with you to-day when your dear husband is laid to rest. To-day's ceremony will be most trying and painful for you, but it will be, at the same time, gratifying to you to see the respect and regret evinced by the nation for the memory of one whose character and intellectual abilities marked him as one of the

¹ The telegram to Mrs. Gladstone which follows.

most distinguished statesmen of my reign. I shall ever gratefully remember his devotion and zeal in all that concerned my personal welfare and that of my family. VICTORIA R. I.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 28th May 1898.—Heard from Bertie and Lord Pembroke that Mr. Gladstone's funeral to-day, at Westminster Abbey, had gone off extremely well, and had been very impressive and touching. I had a very long account of the funeral by telegram from the Duke of Norfolk.

[Telegram.] *The Prince of Wales to Queen Victoria.*

28th May 1898.—Funeral just over, a most impressive and touching sight, very simple but dignified. BERTIE.

[Telegram.] *Mrs. Drew to Queen Victoria.*

HAWARDEN CASTLE, 29th May 1898.—Mary Drew's humble duty to your Majesty. The wonderful service brought strength and comfort to my mother, and we returned here yesterday. She slept well and thanks your Majesty.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

HATFIELD HOUSE, 29th May 1898.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty to your Majesty respectfully acknowledges your letter with respect to Mrs. Gladstone, and returns the enclosed letter which he has read with deep and melancholy interest.

The ceremony yesterday was very impressive on account of the circumstances, and mostly, the pathetic, touching figure of Mrs. Gladstone. But the ceremony was hardly beautiful. The conditions of simplicity imposed made that impossible. But the music was very fine. Outside there were great crowds, but the effect was made almost ridiculous by the rows of cameras which lined the pavement and the roofs.

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.*

BALMORAL CASTLE, 29th May 1898.—The Queen read with much interest Lord Salisbury's letter respecting the future Viceroy and his account of his conversation with Sir Wm. Lockhart¹ with which she feels sure he will have been pleased. His opinion of Mr. G. Curzon is certainly of great weight; and the latter's friendly feeling towards the Ameer and his knowledge of Afghanistan are very important. But that is not all. The future Viceroy must really shake himself more and more free from his red-tapist, narrow-minded Council and entourage. He must be more independent, must *hear for himself* what the *feelings* of the Natives really are, and do what he thinks right, and not be guided by the *snobbish* and vulgar overbearing and offensive behaviour of many of our Civil and Political Agents, if we are to go on peacefully and happily in India, and to be liked and beloved by high and low, as well as respected as we ought to be, and not trying to trample on the people and continually reminding them and make them feel that they are a conquered people. They must of course *feel* that we are masters, but it should be done kindly and not offensively, which alas! is so often the case. Would Mr. Curzon feel and do this?

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 3rd June 1898.—Dear Georgie's birthday. May God bless and protect him for many years to come!

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

9th June 1898.—. . . Lord Salisbury will not fail to communicate to Mr. Curzon the expression of your Majesty's views with respect to the treatment of the natives. They will be very valuable to him as a guide; and it will be of the greatest possible advantage both to India and the Empire if he observes them successfully.

¹ Commander-in-Chief in India, who told Lord Salisbury that "he should look forward with great satisfaction to serving under Lord Curzon."

Before making a final arrangement Lord Salisbury proposes, on Lord George Hamilton's suggestion, to ask Mr. Curzon to consult his medical man as to his physical fitness for the post.

Lord Salisbury returns Lord George Hamilton's letter with his respectful thanks. He quite concurs in the policy of giving to natives a full share of honours.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Queen Victoria.

WAR OFFICE, 9th June 1898.—Lord Lansdowne presents his humble duty to the Queen, and he has the honour to bring before your Majesty again the case of the officers who were required to resign their commissions owing to their connection with the Jameson raid.

Lord Lansdowne thinks that the time has come when the decision arrived at in 1896 may be reviewed, and he submits the following proposals trusting that they will meet with your Majesty's approval.

In the case of Sir John Willoughby and Colonel Rhodes he sees no reason for a departure from the original decision. These officers took the leading parts, and neither of them can be regarded as having been the mere dupe of others.

The remaining four officers stand in a somewhat different position. They plead that they were acting under orders from their immediate superiors, and that they believed themselves throughout to be only doing their duty as soldiers. They have been severely punished already by imprisonment and exclusion from the Army.

Lord Lansdowne advises that Major the Hon. H. White, Captain the Hon. R. White, and Captain Grey be now gazetted as unattached officers on half pay of the rank which they held when they left the Army. This arrangement will render them eligible for Colonial employment as officers, and will also enable the military authorities to bring them back, should that course hereafter be found convenient, either into their own, or into any other regiment, or to give them other military employment such as special service.

Major Coventry, who is a militia officer, cannot be dealt with in this way. He is probably of all the officers concerned the most deserving of lenient treatment. Lord Lansdowne thinks he should be gazetted back to his old regiment in the Militia. A Colonial appointment is, Lord Lansdowne has reason to know, open to him, and he can be "seconded" to enable him to take it up. He will be placed at the bottom of his rank.

Lord Lansdowne has referred to his correspondence with your Majesty in 1896 before writing this letter, and he earnestly trusts that the recommendations which he now makes will seem to your Majesty well suited to the requirements of this difficult case.

Sir Arthur Bigge to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

BALMORAL CASTLE, 10th June 1898.

MY DEAR LORD LANSDOWNE,—Directly the Queen received your telegram¹ explaining that the Commander-in-Chief concurred in the recommendation regarding the Jameson Raid officers contained in your letter of yesterday to her Majesty, I telegraphed that her Majesty agreed to your proposed announcement in Parliament.

The Queen fully appreciates the exceptional difficulties which beset the case, and her Majesty trusts that in extending so much consideration and mercy to those officers who are now to be reinstated, the discipline of the Army will not suffer in the smallest degree. Yours very truly, ARTHUR BIGGE.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 10th June 1898.—Mr. Balfour with his humble duty to your Majesty begs humbly to inform your Majesty that to-night was entirely devoted to a debate on Foreign Affairs. Sir C. Dilke, who was the first speaker, made his principal attack on

¹ The Queen had telegraphed through Sir Arthur Bigge to ask whether the Commander-in-Chief "whom H.M. regards as responsible for the discipline of the Army" concurred in Lord Lansdowne's recommendation.

Lord Salisbury; and by an elaborate and lengthy survey of the events of the last few years he endeavoured to show that Lord Salisbury's foreign policy had been feeble and yielding; that he has shown little care for the commercial interests of the country or capacity for maintaining its honour. Mr. Curzon in an able and brilliant speech defended the Foreign Office, and said admirably everything that had to be said on this branch of the controversy.

The real attack, however, was not upon Lord Salisbury but upon Mr. Chamberlain. His famous speech at Birmingham¹ was the theme of some paragraphs of Sir C. Dilke's speech, of the whole of Mr. Asquith's, and of Sir W. Harcourt's, who rose at 10.20 to conclude the debate for his side. The aim of these various speakers was partly to suggest that there was a difference of opinion on foreign policy between different sections of the Cabinet; partly to attack the substance of Mr. Chamberlain's utterances on the subject of Foreign Alliances, and to draw unfavourable comparison between him and the Prime Minister.

Mr. Chamberlain replied in a speech of characteristic vigour. He repudiated the suggestion of differences in the Cabinet with sarcastic allusion to the notorious differences which existed in the Cabinet which preceded it. The remainder of his argument consisted substantially of the legitimate contention

¹ In this speech, on 18th May, Mr. Chamberlain said that a policy of isolation had been satisfactory in old days, but now that the Great Powers had made alliances, we, so long as we kept outside these alliances, were liable at any moment to be confronted by a combination of overwhelming force. Our first duty was to draw all parts of the Empire together, and our next to establish and maintain bonds of permanent amity with the United States. Because of our isolation we could not interfere more actively in Crete, Armenia, or China. As to the promises given and broken by Russia about Port Arthur, "who sups with the devil must have a long spoon." The whole fate of the Chinese Empire and our enormous interests there was in question; and, if we remained in isolation, might and probably would be decided against our wishes. If we were determined to enforce the policy of the "open door," we must not reject the idea of an alliance with those Powers whose interests most nearly approximated to our own.

that he had not intended to enunciate or recommend a new policy, but merely to state facts, showing that whatever the advantage of isolation might be, such a condition of affairs carried with it characteristic weaknesses. He ended with an eloquent appeal on the Anglo-American alliance; which infuriated Mr. Dillon! Our majority was about two to one.

Mrs. Drew to Queen Victoria.

HAWARDEN CASTLE, 12th June 1898.

MADAM,—My mother is greatly touched by your Majesty's goodness in writing to me so graciously. We have often talked of that day at Cannes when we had the honour and privilege of being received by your Majesty, and my father has often referred to it with much pleasure. His one aim and object latterly was to live and die at peace with all men; leaving all matters of contention behind, he died blessing all, the last conscious words that he said to me were, "Pray for all our fellow Christians, for all our fellow creatures, and especially for those who are down-trodden and oppressed and unhappy."

My mother continues well in health and very patient and brave.

I venture to enclose my husband's sermon, and remain, your Majesty's devoted humble servant,
MARY DREW.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 15th June 1898.—It is ten years to-day that our beloved and excellent Fritz¹ was taken, and how he is regretted more and more! I look upon his death as quite a calamity for the whole of Europe and the preservation of peace.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

20 ARLINGTON STREET, 17th June 1898.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully tenders to your Majesty his warmest thanks for the most kind and gracious words in which your Majesty's note to

¹ The German Emperor Frederick III.

him of the 15th is couched. It is a matter of sincere congratulation that the agreement¹ was arrived at before the resignation of Monsieur Méline's Ministry. France appears to be entering on a period of trouble. Sir E. Monson has done very well. But he has everything, and it is difficult to know how your Majesty's recognition of his merit could be expressed by any honour.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 27th June 1898.—Punctually at nine we went over to the Waterloo Gallery, where a performance of Gounod's *Romeo and Juliet* was given. The music is heavenly, especially that of the two last acts, but I can scarcely [say] which I admire most, this or *Faust*. It is impossible to speak too highly of Madame Eames' performance as Juliet. Her voice is beautifully clear, and she sings with much feeling. We had a great disappointment in Jean de Reszke being unable to sing, having been taken ill at the last moment, and a M. Saléza, a new tenor, who has a good voice, but sings rather too loud, took his part as Romeo. As for Edouard de Reszke, who was the Friar, and Plançon, the father, they were quite magnificent with their splendid voices. The marriage scene in the cell, where the friar has a good deal to sing, was most beautiful, and the last scene was terribly touching. The orchestra was excellent.

The performance lasted till close on one, and after it was over I went to the Green drawing-room, where all the company passed by, as on former occasions. The Syndicate who manage the Covent Garden Opera, consisting of Lord de Grey,² Mr. Higgins, and Mr. Faber,³ came by first and were presented, followed by Mr. Gran, the Manager, then after the company had passed by, the performers came in, *viz.* Madame Eames, whom I praised very much; Miss Bauermeister, who has been attached to the Opera for many years,

¹ About frontiers in West Africa, especially Nigeria.

² Afterwards 2nd Marquis of Ripon.

³ Afterward Lord Wittenham.

taking the small parts; Mr. Edouard de Reszke, still in his friar's dress, particularly pleasing, and was dreadfully distressed at his brother's illness; M. Plançon, who came in in usual evening dress, and M. Saléza, also in costume. I gave Madame Eames my present, and Arthur and Lenchen gave those for the others.

ALDERSHOT,¹ 6th July 1898.—The accounts of the Spanish-American War are dreadful. The Spanish Fleet has been destroyed and the Admiral taken prisoner.

[Telegram.] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

S.M. YACHT "HOHENZOLLERN," MOLDE, 12th July 1898.—I just had the pleasure of inspecting the *Raleigh*, Commodore Poë, flagship of the Training Squadron at anchor off Molde. The ship was in first-rate order, and the men looked well and cheery. The Captain and Officers are going to dine with me to-night. I venture to express my gratification at the event of being able to spend some hours with so many charming brother officers.

Abby² sends his most respectful love. WILLIAM I. R.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 14th July 1898.—After dinner we had a great musical treat, which was a sort of *dédommagement* for the disappointment of Jean de Reszke not singing in *Romeo and Juliet*. Jean and Edouard de Reszke, and a new young singer, Miss Adams, came to sing. It was a beautiful selection of music. The two brothers were in splendid voice and most amiable and pleasant to speak to. Jean was in despair at not having been able to sing the other day, and is most anxious to do so next year. The trio (the marriage scene from *Romeo*) was splendid,

¹ The Duke of Connaught was now in command at Aldershot, and the Queen had gone there for a couple of days to present colours and inspect the troops.

² See above, p. 171.

and they proposed, "si je n'étais pas fatiguée," to sing the fine concluding scene between the Friar and Juliet. I also asked the two brothers to sing the duet from *Carmen*, which they had done on two previous occasions. The depth and volume of Edouard's voice are marvellous, and Jean's, which has a certain similarity of *timbre*, is most touching. Miss Adams has a beautiful, pure, fresh voice, and sings well. Mr. Webber accompanied beautifully, and always accompanies Jean de Reszke.

The Empress Frederick to Queen Victoria.

[Copy.] SCHLOSS FRIEDRICHSHOF, CRONBERG, 15th July 1898.

. . . What you tell me is very strange! I do know for a fact that William *is* most anxious for a *rapprochement* with England, and *hopes* with all his heart that England *will* come forward in some sort of way and meet him half-way. Mr. Chamberlain's utterances¹ at different times have made the most favourable impression on William, but he fears that Lord Salisbury does not or cannot endorse them for some reasons!

Prince Hohenlohe² is not anti-Russian that I know of, but I consider him decidedly pro-Russian, and perhaps is obliged to be so, as all his property is in Russia and his children's future depends on its not being completely lost to him. Still, I think he does not allow himself to be completely swayed by this consideration. Bülow³ is extremely anxious for a good understanding with England, but one often hears, alas! such a thing as an alliance is too good to be true! English Governments are dependent on the House of Commons, Ministries change so, a continuous foreign policy with a *plan* to be followed up cannot exist in England. Still, I am convinced that any definite advance on the part of Lord Salisbury would be very well received by William. I think Sir Frank Lascelles knows that too!

¹ See above, note on p. 254.

² Chancellor of the German Empire.

³ German Foreign Secretary.

Bülow seemed to think a good understanding could only be the work of time, and of slow growth; whilst I imagine William thinks the moment propitious, and would be anxious for the idea to take shape and form! If I may say, I also think it would be wise to treat and consider the matter without too much delay! I daresay William has spoken to Eckardstein.

I tried myself to improve the opportunity, and told William what I thought; which you know I VERY rarely do! I also once wrote to Hatzfeldt quite confidentially (six weeks or more ago), but he never answered or took *any notice*. . . . VICTORIA.

I am sure William would make every endeavour to *enfiler* a *rapprochement* with England, but fears it would not be reciprocated by Lord Salisbury.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 18th July 1898.—Heard that poor Bertie had hurt his leg by slipping downstairs at Waddesdon, Baron Ferdinand's¹ place, and after dinner Sir J. Reid had a telegram from Sir F. Laking, begging him to come up to town to-morrow morning.

19th July.—Saw by a bulletin in the papers, signed by Sir F. Laking and Sir Wm. McCormac, that poor Bertie had fractured his kneecap, and later on I heard from Sir James a confirmation of this, and that some weeks of complete immobility would be necessary. It was feared the limb might be permanently somewhat impaired, which is most sad.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

21st June [[?] July] 1898.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty to your Majesty respectfully submits that he has received with great gratitude and has perused with much interest the letter of H.I.M. the Empress Frederick, which he returns. It appears that she and the German Emperor are of opinion that in the communications which are going on about

¹ Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild.

Colonial territory between England and Germany, Mr. Chamberlain is anxious to meet the wishes of Germany while Lord Salisbury is opposing them. Lord Salisbury never wishes to discuss the actions of a colleague, but he feels bound to inform your Majesty that this view of the comparative action of Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain is not correct, it is the very reverse of the truth.

Lord Salisbury has communicated to Lord George Hamilton your Majesty's wishes with respect to the signature of the letter to Holkar. Lord George will communicate with your Majesty.

The Prince of Wales' accident is most lamentable. The accounts are rather better this evening, but he will be laid up for some weeks.

Lady Salisbury is going on as well as possible. She will be allowed to go on a sofa on Tuesday. The ailment has entirely ceased. . . .

25th July.— . . . A Cabinet was held to-day. Besides the ordinary arrangements for the conduct of business, two subjects of importance were discussed at some length. The first was the despatch which Lord George Hamilton was writing to the Government of India with respect to the future government of the frontier. The question was whether it should continue to be confided to the Government of the Punjab, or whether it should be placed [under the Government] of India. The majority of the Cabinet leant strongly to the latter view, which it was admitted would avoid the red tape and paper administration of the Government of the Punjab. Lord Elgin was for leaving things under the Punjab. It was resolved not to accept his advice, but to leave the final decision of details till the new Viceroy and his Government had had the opportunity of reporting on the matter.

The other question was our dealing with the Nile Valley if, and when, we had taken Khartoum. For this question Lord Cromer attended the Cabinet and gave us the benefit of his views. He thought that the Egyptian and British flags should float side by side ;

that the gunboats with General Kitchener and a small force should go up the Nile as far as Fashoda (600 miles); and as much farther as was practicable; and that any other flag in that valley should be removed. He promised to express the result of the deliberations of the Cabinet in a draft Foreign Office despatch, which will be duly submitted to your Majesty.

[*Same day.*—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty to your Majesty respectfully submits that his doctors (Sir William Broadbent and Dr. Hermann Weber) have ordered him to Contrexéville for gouty eczema. He proposes with your Majesty's permission to start about the ninth of August. He will be at the bath for three weeks; and three weeks more at Schlucht in the Vosges for a *nachkur*. During his stay at the bath Mr. Balfour has consented to take charge of the Foreign Office.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 27th July 1898.—Saw Lord Cromer after luncheon. He was full of interesting information about Egypt, and said the expedition would begin early in September. He hoped the whole would be over by the end of September.

He praised Sir Herbert Kitchener very much, saying how very able he was; and how difficult it was to deal with the Khedive.

31st July.—At quarter to three, drove down to Trinity Pier with Beatrice and Thora, and went on board the *Alberta*, which steamed up to the *Osborne*, which had arrived last night with Bertie on board. It took a little time arranging the gangway from the bridge of the *Alberta* to the deck of the *Osborne*. I was rolled across up to where Bertie was lying on his couch, under a sort of tent which took in the whole stern. He was lying there, looking very well in face, and was cheery and pleased to see us. I sat about half an hour with him. Bertie presented the surgeons, Sir Wm. McCormac and Mr. Fripp, who had attended

Eddy when he was ill. Sir William said the injury to Bertie's knee was a very bad one, but, though progressing favourably, he would have to be very quiet for a long time.

Returned as we came steaming right round the *Crescent*, which was all dressed. It was delightful and the sea was a beautiful colour, as one sees sometimes in the Mediterranean.

Heard the startling news that Bismarck had died last night quite peacefully.

2nd Aug.—Heard to our distress from May, who had been to the *Osborne*, that the poor Queen of Denmark¹ was very ill, and that Alix had been summoned. At a little after four she came to see me, much upset. The doctors had telegraphed that the Queen was a shade better, but that her heart is weak, and that she seemed to be failing altogether, also she is unable to take food. So Alix has decided to go to-night, which distresses her very much on account of Bertie.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

4th Aug. 1898.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully thanks your Majesty for the very interesting letters from the Empress Frederick which he returns.

He earnestly hopes that H.I.M. will not communicate any letter of his to the German Emperor. He would certainly repeat it to someone else; and it would have the appearance as if Lord Salisbury was intriguing with the German Emperor against Mr. Chamberlain. Lord Salisbury had no wish except to defend himself against a possible misapprehension on the part of your Majesty.

The German Emperor takes offence very easily. Lord Salisbury cannot in the least understand what it is he refers to when he speaks of his overtures having been received with "something between a joke and a snub." Lord Salisbury has carefully

¹ The mother of the Prince of Wales

conveyed to Count Hatzfeldt on each occasion the decision of the Cabinet.

The truth is that on questions of territorial cession the German Emperor and public opinion here take very opposite views. It would be impossible to do what the German Emperor desires without incurring the reproach of deserting British interests and making undue concessions. Lord Salisbury is far from saying that British public opinion is always right in this attitude of mind ; but, when the public is excited on the subject as they are now, it is too strong to be resisted. . . .

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 8th Aug. 1898.—After luncheon Lord Denbigh brought a phonograph, into which I spoke, as it was wished I should send a message to the Emperor Menelek. It will be sealed up ; and destroyed after he has received the message.

Queen Victoria to the Emperor Menelek.

[*Phonograph Message.*]

OSBORNE, 8th Aug. 1898.—I, Victoria Queen of England, hope your Majesty is in good health. I thank you for the kind reception which you have given to my Envoys, Mr. Rodd and Mr. Harrington. I wish your Majesty and the Empress Taitou all prosperity and success, and I hope that the friendship between our two Empires will constantly increase.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

HATFIELD HOUSE, 10th Aug. 1898.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully thanks your Majesty for the Empress Frederick's letter which he returns. Count Hatzfeldt's demeanour did not at all correspond with the Emperor's strange telegram. The negotiations were friendly and made some progress. The object of them in the first place is to settle what Portuguese colonies in Africa either Power may charge the interest of a loan upon, if, as is too prob-

able, a large loan has to be found for Portugal. But Germany is anxious further that we should settle to whom these colonies are to go, if Portugal should give them up. It may be useful to settle this beforehand; but we are very anxious to make it clear that we desire to keep the Portuguese monarchy upright; and to protect her in the possession of her colonies, so long as there is no revolution at Lisbon, and the monarchy remains standing. Germany professes the same desire, but we are not quite sure of her sincerity. . . .

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.*¹
[Telegram.] [Secret.]

FOREIGN OFFICE, 11th Aug. 1898, 8 p.m.—Your telegrams Nos. 279 and 280.

The question of Gibraltar is most serious. The erection of batteries or of emplacements for heavy guns commanding the fortress or the anchorage might render the place useless to us in time of war. We should shrink from no consequences in order to avoid such a result; and though we leave it to you to communicate our views in the manner least likely to wound Spain's susceptibilities, please understand that no room for misconception should be left as to the settled policy of this country.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 18th Aug. 1898.—After luncheon saw Sir Robert Warburton. I had nearly an hour's most interesting conversation with him. He was instrumental in bringing about the peace on the Afghan frontier, having been thirty-one years on the frontier, near the Khyber Pass, and employed as political agent there. Out of lamentable red-tapery, on account of his age, he was superseded, but had to be sent for back again. He told me (as I had known before) that his mother had been an Afghan, related to a great Khyber Chief who is now interned in India.

¹ Ambassador at Madrid.

Sir R. Warburton was born in the country, and remained there till he was thirteen. His poor mother had had to fly for her life. His father had been a hostage at the time of Akbar Khan, when, in '40, we had such terrible disasters. The war, he said, might have perhaps been averted. The Afghans were splendid fighting men, and were now as friendly as if nothing had happened. They were treacherous, especially in their feuds amongst each other. He spoke of the difficulties in India, the one great thing being to see and get in touch with the people, which is by far too little done.

19th Aug.—Drove down to Trinity Pier with Beatrice and May, and went on board the *Osborne* to see Bertie. Had tea and sat some little time with him. He was in very good spirits, and said he had sat in an armchair. He would probably go on a little cruise in a few days.

Mr. Curzon to Queen Victoria.

THE PRIORY, REIGATE, 22nd Aug. 1898.—Mr. Curzon with his humble duty to her Majesty the Queen Empress has the honour to acknowledge the gracious letter of the Queen.

Mr. Curzon is well acquainted with Sir Robert Warburton, and rode up the Khyber Pass in his company in 1894. He has also heard much of Sir R. Warburton's influence with the tribes, and rejoices to think that her Majesty has formed so high an opinion of his character and services. The employment of such men as Sir R. Warburton upon the frontier is an object which has always seemed of the utmost importance to Mr. Curzon. And he proposes, as soon as he can be spared from Calcutta or Simla, to go to the frontier himself and make a careful examination of the local conditions with the view of recommending to her Majesty's Government the best system (synonymous, in Mr. Curzon's opinion, with the employment of the best men) for avoiding in the future such calamities as the war of last year.

There is, however, as her Majesty the Queen Empress is aware, some difference of opinion on the matter: the scheme of a Frontier Commissionership being regarded with suspicion in some quarters, as involving, which it need not do, a militant policy; and it is apparently for this reason that it has been viewed unfavourably by the India Office.

It might be that a few words to the Secretary of State would produce a change of attitude. In any case, it is with a deep sense of obligation that Mr. Curzon has received the expression of her Majesty's views on the matter; and he will not fail to bear them in mind as soon as he has assumed the duties of the Office with which the Queen Empress has graciously been pleased to invest him.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 26th Aug. 1898.—Mr. Balfour with his humble duty to your Majesty begs humbly to inform your Majesty that neither the question at issue with Russia about the Northern (or Neuchwang) Railway nor that with the Chinese Government in connection with their breach of faith about the Hankow concession, have yet come to a head. On the other hand, the negotiations with Germany are making satisfactory progress. Mr. Balfour has had several long interviews with the German Ambassador; and he hopes that an arrangement may be come to, not disadvantageous to Portugal, which will cement the friendship between the country and the German Empire, and will indeed amount to a positive alliance so far as S. Africa is concerned.

Mr. Balfour cannot conclude this letter without expressing his uneasiness about the present position of Gibraltar. The Spanish Government have been creating works which threaten the anchorage and the fortress itself. The excuse was the fear of an American invasion. That excuse the peace has removed; but the works are being continued. It seems to Mr. Balfour impossible that this should be

tolerated; and very earnest remonstrances have been addressed to the Spanish Government—so far, unfortunately, with very little effect.

[*Copy.*] *Sir Arthur Bigge to Mr. Richmond Ritchie.*¹

26th August 1898.

DEAR RITCHIE,—The Queen asks that Lord George Hamilton's attention may be called to the minutes of the Council of India, which have been for many years regularly submitted to her Majesty.

The Queen has for some time felt that most of the information which these contain is practically of no interest to her Majesty and useless as a means of helping the Queen to form any estimate of current events connected with the general administration of Indian affairs.

On referring to the accompanying copy of minutes, which is not above the usual standard of dullness, I am sure you will admit that her Majesty's complaint is not without reason. Indeed, one questions whether the time and labour occupied in writing out these Records for the Queen might not be to a large extent saved by suppressing the greater part of them.

Her Majesty also asks whether the heads of all business transacted in Council are noted in the reports.

Under any circumstances, the Queen cannot help realising that she is not adequately informed upon Indian matters of interest, political, military, or social; and I am desired to take this opportunity of asking the Secretary of State to be good enough to consider in what way he can best remedy this want. Yours very truly, ARTHUR BIGGE.

Sir Arthur Bigge to Queen Victoria.

28th Aug. (1898).—These are the final drafts of the Convention with Germany regarding loans to Portugal: a secret Convention by which, if “unfortun-

¹ Private Secretary to Lord George Hamilton; made K.C.B. in 1907; Permanent Under-Secretary at India Office from 1910 to 1912, when he died.

ately " it is " found to be impossible to maintain the integrity of Portugal," England and Germany agree to jointly oppose the intervention of any third Power in the Provinces of Mozambique, Angola, or in the island of Timor. By the Secret Note England virtually meets the last question raised by Count Hatzfeldt, and agrees that, if either country obtains special concessions or privileges in those portions of Portuguese territory whose customs revenues are assigned to it, analogous grants must be granted to the other Power in its assigned territory.

The Queen Regent of Spain to Queen Victoria.

MADRID, 30 Août 1898.

MA CHÈRE TANTE,—Les bontés que vous avez toujours eues pour moi et l'intérêt que vous avez toujours témoigné à l'Espagne, m'encouragent à m'adresser directement à vous pour vous entretenir d'une affaire qui me préoccupe beaucoup dans ces moments si difficiles que notre pauvre pays doit traverser.

Lorsque le 17 Mars, je m'adressai à vous, ma chère Tante, pour vous prier de vouloir bien m'aider à conserver la paix, vous avez eu la bonté de me répondre le 4 Avril, après avoir consulté avec Lord Salisbury, me promettant d'agir d'accord avec les autres Puissances dans l'intérêt de l'Espagne.¹

La guerre a éclaté malheureusement; toutes les Puissances ont déclaré la neutralité, et l'Angleterre de même; mais bientôt à mon grand chagrin j'ai vu que les sympathies de son gouvernement se prononçaient en faveur de nos ennemis. Les Américains trouvaient dans les ports anglais du charbon, des ressources qu'on refusait à nos vaisseaux. Les insurgés des Philippines purent équiper et armer à Hong-Kong une expédition qui à Manille aida les Américains.

Pardonnez, chère Tante, ma franchise; je ne veux d'aucune manière revenir sur tout ce que j'ai souffert

¹ See above, pp. 236 and 240.

cette année, où je me suis trouvée seule à lutter contre tant de malheurs. Je confie en Dieu, qui, je l'espère, ne nous abandonnera pas, et me donnera la force d'accomplir jusqu'au bout mon devoir.

La raison qui m'a mis la plume à la main est la suivante : Lorsque nous avons su que les Américains allaient bombarder nos côtes, nous avons dû fortifier les différents ports de mer et naturellement, en plein usage de notre droit, nous avons fait construire quelques batteries près d'Algeciras. Quel n'a pas été mon étonnement quand j'ai vu que Sir Henry D. Wolff avait présenté une note verbale demandant des explications sur nos travaux militaires ! Je vous assure, ma chère Tante, que j'ai été profondément blessée, qu'on puisse croire que nous pensions à nous défendre contre une nation amie. Jamais nous n'aurions pensé que l'Angleterre songeait à nous attaquer, lorsqu'elle fit placer à Gibraltar des canons formidables, dominant Algeciras et ses environs.

J'espère, chère Tante, que vous voudrez bien m'aider dans cette affaire délicate et croire que je confie pleinement en votre bonté maternelle, qui m'a toujours encouragée et soutenue. Je ne puis croire que mes malheurs aient changé vos sentiments envers moi.

C'est de tout mon cœur que je prie Dieu de vous conserver toujours en bonne santé ; en vous baisant respectueusement les mains je reste, ma chère Tante, Votre reconnaissante et dévouée nièce, MARIE CHRISTINE.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 31st Aug. 1898.—Mr. Balfour with his humble duty to your Majesty begs humbly to inform your Majesty that the news from Spain seems to him to be still very unsatisfactory. Mr. Balfour has striven to formulate the demands of this country in a manner which shall be as little disagreeable to the Spaniards as possible ; so far, however, no result has followed, and the telegrams enclosed, which are the

last Mr. Balfour has received, do not indicate much prospect of a favourable issue. Under these circumstances Mr. Balfour would be glad to have your Majesty's approval for sending a telegram to Sir H. Wolff somewhat as follows :

"I earnestly hope Minister for Foreign Affairs will speedily acquiesce in our friendly request. In contrary event our next step would probably be a formal demand to inspect works, to be followed in case of refusal, by rupture of diplomatic relations with its inevitable consequences. Make informally what use you think desirable of this information."

In a private note to Mr. Balfour, dated 22nd August, Lord Salisbury makes the following observation : "Gibraltar looks like trouble. I suppose we shall have to blockade Algeciras." Mr. Balfour fears that this prophecy may come true ; in any case, the only way to avoid so unhappy a contingency is to convince the Spanish Government that we are in earnest.

Mr. Richmond Ritchie to Sir Arthur Bigge.

Private.

INDIA OFFICE, 31st August 1898.

DEAR BIGGE,—I enclose a rigmarole letter¹ in reply to yours, which probably tells you nothing you don't know already.

It ought not to be difficult to devise a scheme by which necessary papers will be sent quasi-automatically ; but to organise such a system requires a little thought ; and it is a most inconvenient moment to have the question raised when the Secretary of State and all the heads of Departments are away on holidays. For this reason I am afraid there must be delay.

At present I have no idea whatever of Lord George's views : he simply sent me a Minute, ordering

¹ See above, p. 267. The official letter explains that the Council Minutes are merely a formal official record of Council transactions, formally sent to the Queen ever since the India Act of 1858 ; that the really important matters either never come before the Council at all, or do not come till "the drafts embodying the Secretary of State's orders on the matters referred home by the Government of India have been approved by him."

inquiries at the Foreign Office and Colonial Office, and in the Departments here. I presume when the time comes I shall have to write you a formal letter conveying the Secretary of State's reply to the wishes intimated in your letter. Meanwhile, do you think it would be worth while to send, in boxes addressed to the Queen, without explanation, any current papers of real interest?

As to the Council Minutes, Walpole, Clerk to the Council (who was Lord Salisbury's Private Secretary here in '74-'78), tells me he is only astonished the present system has been tolerated so long. Ponsonby used to complain to him from time to time of the futility of the Council Minutes as a document submitted to the Queen (they of course are necessary for the purposes of the business of the Council), and Walpole used to explain to him that there was no option as to the form in which they had to be drawn up. But in reply to suggestions that they should be discontinued, he was given to understand that where the practice of submitting papers of the kind had been established, it was undesirable to propose any alteration of the routine. Yours very truly, RICHMOND RITCHIE.

P.S.—You will get another instalment of Minutes to-morrow!

[*Cypher Telegram.*] *Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.*

1st Sept. 1898. *Recd.* 6 p.m.—Humble duty. Hopes he made it plain in his letter yesterday that there was no intention of immediately sending an ultimatum to Spain; his only object was to enable Sir H. D. Wolff to give such hints as would convince Spanish Government that we are in earnest.

[*Cypher Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to Mr. Balfour.*

1st Sept. 1898. *Sent* 7.45 p.m.—Your further explanation reassures me, and I approve your telegram. Feared at first that you proposed to send an ultimatum, which made me uncomfortable.

*The Queen of the Netherlands*¹ to *Queen Victoria*.

PALAIS, LA HAYE, 2nd September 1898.

MY DEAREST AUNT,—I was deeply touched by your kind and loving letter, so full of sympathy ; and I beg to offer you my warmest thanks. Such heartfelt wishes coming from you, who yourself have gone through all I am feeling just now, are doubly precious to me, and I am most grateful for the affection and friendship you so kindly and lovingly bestow upon me.

If God spares me to reign as long as you, dear Aunt, then I hope I shall be able to look back upon my government with as much satisfaction as you can !

Heavy responsibilities are laid upon my shoulders, but happily I have my Mother next to me. I can never be grateful enough that God has given me such a wise and loving Mother, who is the greatest help and blessing to me.

Once more expressing to you my sincerest gratitude for your loving letter, and hoping that your stay in Scotland will be a rest for you, I remain, dear Aunt, with respectful love, your very affectionate niece and sister, WILHELMINA.

General Kitchener to Private Secretary, Balmoral.

[*Telegram.*]

NASRI, 3rd Sept. 1898.—With humble duty I beg to inform her Majesty that yesterday the British and Egyptian forces camped six miles north of Omdurman, and were attacked in that position this morning by a force of some thirty-five thousand Dervishes under the personal command of the Khalifa. The attack was delivered with great boldness and determination, enveloping both our flanks. After one hour's fighting the Dervishes were driven off with great loss, and I then moved out of my position in the direction of Omdurman. But very shortly after moving the

¹ Who had just come of age, and assumed the reins of government.



Lord Kitchener of Khartoum
1898

force was again heavily attacked, and a general action in the open took place; the Dervishes were completely defeated and dispersed by midday. At one o'clock we watered at Khor Shambat, and at two o'clock I advanced upon Omdurman, which I occupied without any serious resistance. The Khalifa, who had re-entered the town, escaped, but the whole Dervish army has been practically destroyed.

I cannot give you for the information of her Majesty the complete list of the killed and wounded, as it has not yet been made out. Lieutenant R. Grenfell, 12th Lancers, and Captain Caldecot, Warwicks, were I regret to say killed, and several other officers wounded, also the Hon. [Hubert] Howard, correspondent, was killed. Princes Christian Victor and Francis of Teck both untouched and well. Neufeld and 150 other prisoners have been released from prison, and are now with us. SIRDAR.

[Telegram.] *Queen Victoria to General Kitchener.*

BALMORAL, 3rd Sept. (1898).—Congratulate you and all the brave troops under fire on the brilliant success you have achieved. Grieve for losses, but trust wounded are doing well.

Rejoice relatives are safe. Please telegraph direct to me. V. R. I.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 4th Sept. 1898.—Service at eleven, performed by Mr. Sibbald, who preached very nicely, and brought in an allusion to our brave soldiers and sailors. More telegrams kept coming in, several repeating the same news in different terms. One cannot be sufficiently thankful for the success so anxiously waited for, but it is to be deplored that the Khalifa escaped so far. However, he is being hotly pursued by gunboats and cavalry.

Soon after luncheon saw Mr. Curzon, and talked of all the difficulties lying before him, but he knows

India well and is free from red-tapism, so that I hope he will do well.

[*Telegram.*] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

SCHLOSS, HANOVER, 4th Sept. 1898.—I hasten to lay my sincerest congratulations at your feet for the victory of Omdurman, which has crowned the difficult and well-conceived operations after a severe, but gallantly fought, action. I was able to announce the joyous tidings to the regiments assembled at the foot of the Waterloo Column on the Place d'Armes of Hanover, who gave three cheers for you and their brave British comrades. WILLIAM I. R.

General Kitchener to the Private Secretary, Balmoral.
[*Telegram.*]

NASRI, 5th Sept. 1898.—I beg you will inform her Majesty that all the British wounded have left here in barges towed by steamers for Abadia, where a hospital has been prepared for them. I saw them before leaving, they are all doing well.

The Khalifa has fled in the direction of Kordofan, with only 130 men and a number of women.

This morning the British and Egyptian flags were hoisted on the walls of Gordon's Palace at Khartoum, upon which occasion enthusiastic cheers for her Majesty were given by both British and Egyptian troops; subsequently an impressive memorial service was held at the place where Gordon died.¹ SIRDAR.

[*Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to General Kitchener.*

BALMORAL, 5th Sept. 1898.—Have heard with deepest interest of the hoisting of the flags, and the memorial service where poor Gordon met his cruel fate, and also that the wounded are doing well.

Trust Khalifa will be captured. Pray telegraph direct to me. V. R. I.

¹ "Surely he is avenged," wrote the Queen in her Journal the same day.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 5th Sept. 1898.—Don't you think the Sirdar ought to receive some mark of distinction or reward, as he has conducted this brilliant affair with consummate skill? If you thought [fit] I think of a Peerage. I should much wish to announce it to him myself if you propose it.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

6th Sept. 1898.—Humble duty. I concur in your Majesty's opinion most fully.

It will very much enhance the value of the proposed honour in the eyes of Kitchener if he receives the announcement of it direct from your Majesty. I am sending a submission by the messenger; but no doubt your Majesty will send the announcement to Sir H. Kitchener at once.

[*Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to General Kitchener.*

BALMORAL, 6th Sept. 1898.—It is with feelings of admiration and thankfulness that I announce to you my intention of conferring a peerage on you as a mark of my deep sense of the services you have rendered under such most difficult and trying circumstances. V. R. I.

The Khedive Abbas to Queen Victoria.

[*Télégramme.*]

DIVONNE, 7 Sept. 1898.—Je suis très touché de la dépêche que votre Majesté Royale et Impériale a daigné m'adresser. Nos armées réunies viennent d'ajouter encore à la gloire qu'elles avaient déjà acquise. Que votre Majesté me permette de lui présenter mes respectueuses félicitations pour le courage et la grande vaillance des officiers et des soldats anglais! ABBAS HILMI.

[Telegram.] *General Kitchener to Queen Victoria.*

OMDURMAN, 8th Sept. 1898.—In thanking your Majesty for your telegram of to-day, I beg to inform your Majesty that the Khalifa has up till now escaped our troops, but the friendly Arabs who are still in pursuit will I hope catch him. The Camel Corps under Major Tudray have just returned, having pursued him for fifty miles. The Khalifa left his women on the road, including the mother of Sheik Eddin, his eldest son; they are now being cared for in our camp. I am moving the British troops down to Cairo as soon as transport becomes available.

The Warwicks, Lincolns, and Seaforths have left, and your Majesty's Cameron Highlanders are just leaving. All troops are in the best of spirits. Wounded continue to do well.

I propose to leave in gunboats for Fashoda to-morrow or next day with one hundred Cameron Highlanders and some Sudanese and Egyptian troops. SIRDAR.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[Cypher Telegram.]

9th Sept. 1898.—News from Crete most serious.¹ Surely we cannot stand our Vice-Consul being killed. V. R. I.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[Cypher Telegram.]

9th Sept. 1898.—Humble duty. I am in communication with the Russian Government as to the measures to be taken. Their objection to interfering with the claims of the Turkish Government has been the main obstacle to establishment of an effective Government in Crete.

[Telegram.] *Queen Emma to Queen Victoria.*

LA HAYE, 10th Sept. 1898.—Am most grateful for your kind telegram. We are both quite well, only a

¹ See Introductory Note to this chapter.

little tired. Everything passed off beautifully.¹ Wilhelmina sends with me her respectful love. EMMA.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 10th Sept. 1898.—A telegram from the Press Association, which was soon followed by one from Reuter, announcing that the poor dear Empress of Austria had been assassinated at Geneva by an Italian anarchist! These startling and awful news gave us all a terrible shock, but I would not believe it could be true at first, and sent to enquire in every direction. However, the news was soon officially confirmed; and after dinner I got the following cypher from Sir H. Rumbold²: "News just been received from Geneva that H.M. the Empress has been assassinated by an Italian anarchist, when landing from the steamer. The Empress, stabbed to the heart, almost at once succumbed. The Prime Minister has gone to Schönbrün at once to break the news to the Emperor." Telegraphed at once to the poor Emperor.

Sir Horace Rumbold to Queen Victoria.

VIENNA, 11th Sept. 1898.—Sir Horace Rumbold, with his most humble duty to the Queen, begs to state for your Majesty's information that he has just seen Count Goluchowski, who describes the Emperor as bearing up in the most wonderful manner, and being able to attend to matters of business with his habitual exactness and punctuality. When the dreadful news was first broken to his Majesty he seemed completely stunned, and, sinking into a chair, remained motionless and silent for some time. He soon, however, rallied, and addressing the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, who had hastened to Schönbrün, exclaimed: "Mir bleibt doch gar nichts erspart auf dieser Welt."

¹ On the occasion of the attainment of the majority and the enthronement of Queen Wilhelmina.

² British Ambassador in Vienna.

It is some comfort to think that the stab to which the Empress succumbed so pierced the heart that her Majesty can have scarcely suffered at all, and, after a few moments when she does not seem to have realised the character of the blow dealt to her, she became and remained unconscious till the end.

The principal members of her Majesty's household have left for Geneva, and the arrangements made are such as will probably make it possible for the funeral to take place next Saturday, the 17th. The Emperor's favourite daughter, Archduchess Marie Valérie, arrived here at five o'clock this morning, and will be invaluable to his Majesty in his terrible distress of mind.

The impression produced by this dreadful event on all classes throughout the Empire, and the sympathy for the Emperor is such that the hope may almost be indulged that it may lead to a more conciliatory and reasonable spirit in the Reichsrath, which is summoned for the 26th, and render possible some settlement of the momentous questions which so affect the future of the monarchy. In Hungary, where the Empress was greatly beloved, the feeling for the Emperor in his bereavement is certain to be very strong indeed.

The Emperor of Austria to Queen Victoria.

[*Telegrams—Translation.*]

SCHÖNBRÜN, 11th Sept. 1898.—Deeply moved by your words of profound sympathy with my inexpressible grief. I beg you to accept my warmest thanks for your kind compassion.

17th Sept.—After the melancholy hours spent in escorting my dearly beloved wife for the last time, only your affectionate message of remembrance, which has just come, can give me any comfort. I thank you from my heart for including her who can never be forgotten and me in your prayers, and fervently beseech God to pour every blessing upon you. FRANCIS JOSEPH.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

HOTEL ALTENBERG, MÜNSTER, 11th Sept. 1898.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty acknowledges with his respectful thanks your Majesty's gracious letter, enclosing a most interesting and pathetic letter¹ from the Queen Regent of Spain.

He is very much distressed to find that her Majesty imputes to your Majesty's Government partiality of conduct during the recent war. Lord Salisbury believes the accusation to be absolutely groundless. Every effort was made to ensure in all our ports the observance of the most scrupulous neutrality; and Lord Salisbury has not heard of a single instance in which this rule was broken. He feels certain that the Queen Regent has been deceived in this matter. Of course he was painfully aware that the newspaper press took a most partial and one-sided view; but her Majesty must be perfectly aware that the Government in England has no hold whatever over the Press, which is absolutely free.

Mr. Balfour will have put your Majesty entirely in possession of the facts with respect to Gibraltar. The case is an awkward one; and the Spanish Government has been very imprudent. Lord Salisbury has done what seemed possible to prevent the negotiations from assuming an angry character. He thinks that *now* the Queen Regent might usefully interfere simply to prevent *large* guns being taken to places where they would be dangerous to the harbour of Gibraltar; but it would probably be dangerous for her to bring back AT PRESENT one or two that have already been moved.

All that *for the moment* it is possible to do with respect to Crete is to move up reinforcements; and that is being done. We are trying to induce the Powers—that is to say Russia—to take energetic steps; not as yet with any manifest success. If they decline to do anything to bring this disgraceful

¹ See above, p. 268.

state of things to a close, we must consider whether England cannot do something in that direction by herself.

The telegraph to Khartoum has broken again, so that communication with the Sirdar has become impossible.

What a terrible catastrophe at Geneva ! Fortune seems never tired of pursuing the Emperor of Austria.

Lord Salisbury is greatly rejoiced that Mr. Curzon has satisfied your Majesty.

Lord Salisbury thinks your Majesty might with great advantage communicate with the Queen Regent in the sense he has suggested.

Queen Victoria to the Queen Regent of Spain.

[Copie.]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 12 (?) Septembre 1898.

MA CHÈRE NIÈCE,—Je suis péniblement émue de voir, par votre lettre, que vous ayez pu douter de mes sentiments de bonne foi envers vous et votre pays, et de la très sincère part que j'ai prise aux malheurs qui vous touchent si cruellement.

J'espère dissiper le malentendu qui semble s'être fait dans votre esprit au sujet de l'attitude de l'Angleterre envers l'Espagne, en vous prouvant, que d'après mes informations auprès de Lord Salisbury, il résulte que vous avez été mal renseignée sur les différents points qui forment la matière de votre lettre. Je comprends que l'attitude partielle de la presse Anglaise vis-à-vis de la guerre ait fait naître l'impression erronée que mon Gouvernement favorisait plutôt l'Amérique que l'Espagne. Mais je puis vous assurer que tel n'a pas été le cas. L'entière liberté de presse existe chez nous, le Gouvernement ne subventionne aucun journal, de sorte que ceux-ci n'expriment pas du tout les sentiments unanimes de la nation.

Tous nos efforts ont tendu à observer une scrupuleuse neutralité et je n'ai eu connaissance d'aucun cas où cette règle ait été violée.

Quant à la question disputée des nouveaux armements à Alger, il n'a jamais été question de notre côté de vouloir nous défendre contre l'Espagne ; ainsi je ne crois pas, chère nièce, que vous ayez là un motif de penser que nos sentiments, envers vous et votre pays, aient changé. Pour le moment il me semble qu'il n'y a rien de mieux à faire que d'en rester là, sans prendre de nouvelles mesures rigoureuses pour fortifier les côtes de votre pays.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 12th Sept. 1898.—The murder of our Vice-Consul and the killing and wounding of our officers and men in Crete demand reparation on the part of the Sultan. We cannot let this pass quietly. It is enough to provoke a war. We really cannot wait for the other Powers in what concerns us.

As long as the Khalifa is not caught we must feel that we have not entirely ended the Soudan difficulties, and a strong force should be kept, till he is captured, at Omdurman or Khartoum, and additional British troops should not leave Cairo. We always have made the mistake of sending our troops away too soon.

How horrible is this assassination of the poor Empress of Austria !

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

14th Sept. 1898.—Humble duty. We have not yet information enough to make a demand of the Sultan. Undoubtedly we must have a reparation if these outrages were either committed or connived at by the Turkish troops. We shall know more shortly when Colonel Chermide¹ arrives. Before we act, we are bound to know what our Allies in the Occupation mean to do.

I have no doubt Sirdar will be very careful to leave

¹ British Military Commissioner in Crete ; afterwards General Sir Herbert Chermide.

as many troops at Khartoum as are necessary ; for he never makes the mistake of not looking ahead. But I believe we cannot communicate with him till he returns from Fashoda.

Lord George Hamilton to Sir Arthur Bigge.

NORTH BERWICK, 15th September 1898.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—Ritchie sent me your letters about the Queen's desire for more information from the India Office,¹ and I have been trying to substitute some method of giving expression to the Queen's wishes. There is no similarity between our work and that of the Foreign Office : we are a supervising administrative office, and nineteen-twentieths of our business is dull, and deals with prosaic business. I will in a few days submit to the Queen definite and I hope satisfactory ideas.

I am in my golfing paradise. Believe me, yours very truly, GEORGE HAMILTON.

[*Télégramme.*] *President Faure to Queen Victoria.*

MOULINS PRÉFECTURE, 16 Sept. 1898.—Je suis très touché de la dépêche qu'a bien voulu m'adresser votre Majesté. Nous avons été heureux de recevoir son Altesse Royale le Duc de Connaught, et il nous est agréable de constater que son séjour au milieu de l'armée lui laisse un bon souvenir. Nous sommes charmés de la satisfaction qu'en éprouve votre Majesté. FÉLIX FAURE.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

18th Sept. 1898.—Humble duty. A telegram from Sir A. Biliotti has reached me. It is numbered 72, but is probably the one your Majesty mentions.

The objection to making by force Colonel Cherm-side Governor of Candia, is that such a measure is not exacting reparation, but taking possession. It would be looked upon by the other Powers as an act of bad faith, and as justifying the suspicion that we

¹ See above, pp. 267 and 270.

intend to annex the island, which they have entertained all along.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 19th Sept. 1898.—Georgie and May with little David arrived at a quarter to one. In the afternoon drove with Jane C[hurchill] to the Dantzig, where Beatrice and May joined us for tea. When I came up to my room [after dinner] Jane C[hurchill] came to wish me good-bye, which I regret very much. She is almost the last remaining of my intimate friends.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Fleetwood Edwards.
[Cypher Telegram.]

19th Sept. 1898. Recd. 10.15 p.m.—Pray submit to her Majesty that the French President proposes to appoint M. Cambon¹ Ambassador to her Majesty; and also submit my respectful request that I may convey to the French Government her Majesty's approval. If you receive it pray telegraph to Sir E. Monson so as not to lose time.

Queen Victoria to Sir Edmund Monson.
[Cypher Telegram.]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 19th Sept. 1898.—I approve appointment, and appreciate the motive which prompted the choice of M. Cambon.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.
[Cypher Telegram.]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 21st Sept. 1898.—Omitted to say in my letter yesterday that my telegram to the Sirdar telling that I conferred a peerage on him which I sent on 5th or 6th has never reached him,² and that I therefore have got no answer. It is very annoying,

¹ He was described by the French Foreign Minister to Sir E. Monson as "an Ambassador notoriously most friendly and inspired with the best disposition towards England."

² The telegram did not reach Omdurman until after the Sirdar had gone south.

as the good effect of the early recognition of his services has thus been marred.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 22nd Sept. 1898.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully thanks your Majesty for your very gracious letter. Both Lord and Lady Salisbury have derived great advantage in health from a three weeks' stay at (or rather near) the Schlucht, a singularly beautiful place on the ridge of the Vosges.

The difficulty of sending messages to the Sirdar during the week following the battle has been exceedingly annoying. It has been due entirely to the line of telegraph having been broken in two or three places, a mishap which could not possibly have been prevented, whether it was due to sheer accident or to the ill-will of some dervish stragglers.

With respect to Crete, Lord Salisbury entirely agrees with your Majesty that full reparation must be exacted from those who have committed grave outrages on your Majesty's Vice-Consul and soldiers. The prisoners accused are to be tried before a tribunal established by the Admirals; and leave has been given to execute any sentence pronounced, even a death sentence, without reference home, so far as your Majesty's Government is concerned. Evidence is being collected to ascertain how far the Turkish authorities are implicated; but we have no report from Sir H. Chermiside on that point.

The question of moving the Turkish troops out of the island is, at all events, in the first instance a question for the four Powers. Their decisions are slow, because the Emperor of Russia has gone to the Crimea, not taking with him either a Secretary or a cypher book. He can only therefore be communicated with by messenger.

Lord Salisbury feels deeply the truth of your Majesty's words, with respect to the awful murder of the Empress of Austria. But it is very difficult for

us to press other Governments to expel these monsters, when Parliament will not give the power of expelling foreign anarchists to your Majesty's Government.

Private. Colonel Wingate to Sir Arthur Bigge.

DAL, OFF ABBA ISLAND, WHITE NILE, 23rd September 1898.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—The few days following our fight and preceding our departure for Fashoda were such busy ones that it was impossible to carry out my intention of writing to you, and now we are almost back again at Khartoum. We are due there tomorrow morning, after just a fortnight's absence up this uninteresting river, uninteresting I mean as regards scenery and detestable as to climate, but interesting to a degree in all we have seen and done. As I daresay you know, before leaving Omdurman the dervish steamer *Tewfikia* suddenly arrived there in complete ignorance of our presence. She had been sent down by the dervish Emir of the White Nile with a demand to the Khalifa for immediate reinforcements in order to drive the hated "Turk" out of Fashoda, where he had installed himself; there had already been a scrimmage between them, and the dervish had retired. . . . Of course *we* had very little doubt who the Turk was, for in this country all who are not natives are so styled, and there was no difficulty in identifying this one with M. Marchand.

Instead, however, of dervish reinforcements, five gunboats with British and Soudanese steamers left Omdurman on the 10th September, and steamed slowly up this huge river. Five days later we came abreast of the dervish camp at Renk (300 miles south of Khartoum), and here was a fresh surprise for the dervish; instead of the thousands of faithful Mahdists he had expected, he suddenly found the hated Turk coming from the north, and, without hesitation, he foolishly tried conclusions with him, but he was quite unequal to the task, and in less than half an hour the camp was in our hands and the dervish Emir a wounded prisoner on board this boat.

Then we continued our way south. The villagers of the great Shilluk tribe through which we passed gazed at us in astonishment; no doubt they have come up, they said, to aid their brothers at Fashoda who had come from the west. . . .

As we got close to Fashoda we sent a letter to the Chief of the European expedition saying the Sirdar with British and Egyptian troops and gunboats would shortly arrive. This was on the evening of the 18th, and on the morning of the 19th, as we were steaming along, a little row-boat hove in sight almost swamped by a gigantic tricolour; it came alongside, and a black sergeant, with much ceremony, delivered Marchand's reply to the Sirdar, in which that gentleman stated that in accordance with the instructions of his Government he had occupied the Bahr-el-Ghazal and Fashoda, had made a Treaty with the Shilluk Chief who had placed all his country under French protection, and that on the Sirdar's arrival he would be happy to salute him in the name of France. In due time we tied up close to the *Mudiria*, over which the French flag floated, and Marchand with Captain Germain came on board; and then followed a very interesting conversation, the upshot of which was that M[archand] admitted our vastly superior force. . . . At the same time he said that he had only carried out his orders in coming on to the Nile, and he could not retire or haul down his flag without orders, and if we forced him to do so he had no alternative but to die at his post. I then went out with Germain to look for a place on which to hoist the flag, and eventually a ruined bastion of the old Egyptian fortifications was selected about 500 yards south of the French flag. . . . Here the flag was hoisted with much ceremony, and Jackson was nominated Governor and Commandant with a strong garrison. . . .

We have resumed the government of the country, and the great Shilluk Chief is now located with a large following in the Egyptian camp, and declaring by all he holds sacred that he never made any treaty with

the French. One cannot help having a twinge of pity and not a little admiration for this gallant little band of eight Frenchmen and 120 black soldiers who have for the last two years undergone terrible hardships. . . . Just imagine the position! Here is Marchand in a perfectly untenable place, from which the state of the country makes retreat impossible, cut off from his nearest supports by hundreds of miles of most difficult country, short of ammunition and supplies, and within easy striking distance of a huge dervish army, which could have and would have crushed him as a hammer does a nut, had our arrival at Khartoum been delayed a fortnight. In short, our expedition has rescued the French expedition, and I think one and all of them thoroughly realise it: they told us how the news of our approach had been conveyed to them as the approach of a great dervish force, that they had been working day and night on their slender lines, and how they knew they could never have met a determined attack. . . . I hope the instructions [for Marchand's recall] will not be long in coming, both for the sake of the poor men who need feeding up and care after all their hardships, as for the smooth working of the new administration which cannot be quite untrammelled until they go. . . . Ever yours, F. R. WINGATE.

[*Telegram.*] *General Kitchener to Queen Victoria.*

OMDURMAN, 24th Sept. 1898.—With humble duty. It is with feelings of the most profound gratitude that I have this day received your Majesty's most gracious telegram conveying the intention of conferring a Peerage on me. Such an honour is far beyond my merits, and in humbly accepting your Majesty's most gracious favour it is my fervent hope that by employing all my energies in the service of my Queen and country I may become more worthy of this great mark of distinction.¹ SIRDAR.

¹ The Queen's comment on this telegram in her Journal is that it was "most nicely and modestly expressed."

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.
[Cypher Telegram.]

26th Sept. 1898.—. . . Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris was instructed to read to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs the two telegrams from the Sirdar respecting M. Marchand at Fashoda,¹ and to say that her Majesty's Government entirely approved Sirdar's proceedings and language.

Sir E. Monson reports the Minister for Foreign Affairs expressed satisfaction at the manner in which meeting had passed, and said he would submit contents of the telegrams to the Council of Ministers to-morrow morning.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 29th Sept. 1898.—Beatrice came in to me to bring the news of the poor Queen of Denmark's death, which Alix had telegraphed to me in the following words: "Our beloved Mother passed away at six this morning. No words can describe our sorrow." I am so much grieved, for I know what a blow it will be to the poor King and all their children, who were so devoted to her. For the Queen herself, it is a mercy she is at last at rest. I am so thankful dear Alix was with her all this time, she and her two sisters having done everything they could for their mother. I saw the Queen for the first time at Laeken, when she and Prince Christian brought Alix to see me.²

The answer of the French Government about Fashoda is not very satisfactory, though the Minister of Foreign Affairs is personally very friendly.

30th Sept.—A very wet morning. Could not get out. More telegrams about Fashoda. The French Government is in such difficulties that it begs not to be pressed, and is afraid to order Marchand to come

¹ These telegrams were of course to the same effect as the letter of Colonel Wingate to Sir Arthur Bigge.

² See Second Series, vol. i, pp. 43-44.

away, who, on the other hand, cannot possibly remain there, for lack of provisions and water. He can only communicate through us.

The Queen Regent of Spain to Queen Victoria.

[*Translation.*]

MADRID, 1st October 1898.

DEAR AUNT,—I thank you with my whole heart for both your infinitely kind letters, which have completely set my mind at rest with regard to the friendly intentions of England toward Spain.

Allow me to send you most particular thanks for your loving words which assure me of your goodwill. Pardon me, dear Aunt, for having addressed myself directly to you, but I was so upset and oppressed by anxiety that I longed to confide in you and unburden my heart to you. For your kind attitude and intentions let me once more gratefully kiss your hands.

It was with the greatest sorrow that I learnt of the death of the dear Queen of Denmark, and send you my deepest sympathy in this sad loss. I also thank you very much for your kind sympathy concerning the horrible murder of the Empress. I feel so infinitely sorry for the poor Emperor.

May I ask you, dear Aunt, to give my kindest greetings to dear Beatrice? Thanking you again from my heart for everything, I remain, dear Aunt, your grateful and devoted niece, MARIA CHRISTINA.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 2nd Oct. 1898,—Dear little David appeared for the first time in a kilt I gave him, of which he is very proud, and in which he looked charming.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 2nd Oct. 1898.—Sir E. Monson's telegrams received here this morning are most unsatisfactory. It seems a deadlock; the French

Government do not telegraph Marchand to leave, and he will be starved out and be unable to remain for want of water. Could we not delay till the French Government receive his report, which can, I believe, only come through us ?

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.
[Cypher Telegram.]

3rd Oct. 1898.—Humble duty. I deeply sympathise with your Majesty's dissatisfaction at the present deadlock.

We, however, are doing nothing, but only waiting, and we cannot do anything else. No offer of territorial concession on our part would be endured by public opinion here.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.
[Cypher Telegram.]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 3rd Oct. 1898.—Received your cypher. Quite agree. We cannot give way. Think the want of water and provisions will force Marchand to leave. If we wait I think the force of circumstances will bring the French to their senses.

*Captain Sadi Carnot to Sir Edmund Monson.*¹

PARIS, ce 8 Octobre 1898.

MONSIEUR L'AMBASSADEUR,—Ma famille est bien vivement émue du témoignage particulier de sympathie que Sa Majesté la Reine Victoria a daigné vous charger de lui transmettre, à l'occasion de la perte si cruelle que nous venons d'éprouver dans la personne de ma mère bien-aimée.²

Mes frères se joignent à moi pour prier Votre Excellence de vouloir bien porter à Sa Majesté, dont la bonté nous fut précieuse dans un autre et bien douloureux moment, l'hommage de notre profonde reconnaissance.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, l'ex-

¹ Submitted by Sir Edmund Monson to Queen Victoria.

² The widow of President Carnot.

pression de mes plus dévoués sentiments, CARNOT, Capitaine 39^e Infanterie.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 9th Oct. 1898.—After luncheon Lord Minto,¹ who kissed hands on his appointment as Governor-General of Canada, which he is delighted at. I also saw Mary Minto for a little while, who asked my advice as to what she should and should not do.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

12th Oct. (1898).—Humble duty. Following sent to Paris No. 223. I have had another long conversation with French Ambassador, in which his Excellency said that, if Marchand retired from Fashoda, he could not descend the Nile, but must return by the way he came. For this purpose it would be necessary that we should allow him to be supplied with provisions and ammunition. I said we would not object to M. Marchand taking this route, but that if ammunition were supplied to him, it could only be to protect him from the natives and on the condition that it was only used against them, and that he undertook to retire as far as the water-shed of the Ubanghi. To this the French Ambassador did not assent. He then, after much preliminary rhetoric, said his instructions were to claim for France free access to the Nile from her Congo possessions, for which purpose she required a post on the navigable part of the Bahr-el-Ghazal. The French Government were ready to come to an arrangement simultaneously for the delimitation of the two spheres in country east of Lake Chad. I made no reply to this proposal, except to say that it was far too grave a matter to be discussed in the absence of my colleagues, but that I would duly submit it to their examination.

¹ The 4th Earl: Governor-General of Canada 1898-1904; Viceroy of India 1905-1910.

Sir Arthur Bigge to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

[Copy.]

18th October 1898.

DEAR LORD LANSDOWNE,—The Queen desires me to write to you on the following subject :

For some time her Majesty has felt that there is much need for a reconsideration of the position of Bandmasters in the Army. At present, so far as concerns rank, pay, and pension, it compares very unfavourably with that of Riding-masters, Quarter-masters, and School Inspectors. No doubt the official responsibility of these latter is great from a military and discipline point of view; still, upon the Bandmasters higher demands are made as to education, intellectual powers, and culture; and I suppose that it will be admitted that a good band helps to make a good regiment, and thus may fairly be reckoned as a necessary factor in the efficiency of the Army.

But the Bandmasters are debarred from that advancement which is within reach of every soldier who joins the ranks, including even schoolmasters. This seems to the Queen unfair. Either they should be, as formerly, civilians, or, if not, they should at least have equal rights with other soldiers.

Her Majesty is aware that hitherto there has been no complaint on the part of the Bandmasters themselves, and that no difficulty is experienced in obtaining candidates for the post as at present constituted. But this cheerful acceptance of their anomalous position appears to the Queen all the more reason for doing something to improve it; and there is, I imagine, every reason to believe that were it possible for them to receive a commission, a better class, both professionally and socially speaking, would thereby be attracted to the Army. There would be obviously a consequent increased expenditure, but the Queen does not believe that this would be opposed by the Treasury.

The Army would benefit by getting a superior class of Bandmasters and better bands; to the art of

music a graceful tribute would be paid, and what seems little short of an injustice removed.

At present one may say that the only prizes to which a Bandmaster may aspire are the principal bands, such as the R.A., the R.E., and Guards, Marines, and Household Cavalry. Recognising this fact, H.M. thinks that it might be advisable to reserve the commissions for these bands, thus making the prize still more valuable, and so stimulating other Bandmasters to qualify for these vacancies as they occur. The Queen suggests that a certain number of commissions should be given entirely by selection to those Bandmasters who, by their musical abilities, length of service, or excellence of their bands, are considered most worthy of advancement. Perhaps it might be necessary to limit these commissions to three or four.

Her Majesty would wish now to give three commissions, *viz.*: (1) Mr. C. Godfrey, Blues; (2) Mr. Zavertal, R.A.; and (3) Mr. Miller, Portsmouth Division R.M.L.I.

Her Majesty proposes these names for the following reasons:

(1) On account of his long service and being master of a very good band in one of the Household Cavalry regiments.

(2) As a recognition of the very high standard of efficiency to which he has brought his band, both military and orchestral, and of his eminent musical ability.

(3) Although this will be dealt with by the Admiralty, it is included in the general proposal. The Queen can perhaps speak with more personal knowledge of this band than of any other. It plays both as military and orchestral, frequently during H.M.'s residence at Osborne, and excels under Mr. Miller, of whose musical acquirements the best proof has been given by his passing the examination for a Bach. of Music of the University of Oxford.

The details of the above proposal are only sugges-

tions. But the Queen feels sure of your concurrence with its general principle. H.M. therefore trusts that you will be able to advise such changes in the Regulations as may be necessary to carry it into effect.¹

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

13th Oct. (1898).—Humble duty. Following received from Sir E. Monson:

“Fashoda. I learn from the Austrian Chargé d’Affaires, who had a long conversation yesterday with Mons. Delcassé, that his Excellency showed considerable resentment at the publication of the Blue Book, which he said had been intended to intimidate him by arousing public opinion in England.

“The Minister’s language in declaring he was not to be cowed was unusually warm. His Excellency told the Austrian Chargé d’Affaires that France must insist on having a trade outlet from the Ubanghi to the Nile, which is an international river, not to be appropriated exclusively by the English, Germans, and Belgians.

“The Austrian Chargé d’Affaires, who is on cordial terms with M. Delcassé, says that he told the Minister that it seemed to him that the present question was not one of rights but of facts, and that the latter at any rate were against France.

“In thanking him for his information I laid stress upon the absolute impossibility of our abating one iota of our claim.”

Thursday, 20th Oct.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty to your Majesty respectfully submits that in obedience to your Majesty’s commands conveyed through Lord Cross, he saw Sir Edward Bradford yesterday on the anarchist question. Sir Edward

¹ Lord Lansdowne, replying on the 15th October, said that he would lose no time in making enquiries, and then, when he was in possession of the facts, making a submission to the Queen. On 20th October Mr. Goschen wrote that he was giving her Majesty’s wish about Mr. Miller, of the R.M.L.I., his best attention. See below, pp. 312, 317, and 327.

has been recently married, and therefore was not available before. He is strongly against any international action being taken against the anarchists *as such*; because it is impossible to define an anarchist, or to declare what men are anarchists and what are not. He has no aversion to an extension of the general power of the Government to expel aliens from this country, if Parliament should be disposed to confer such a power upon the Government; but he does not believe that Parliament *will* confer such a power, which is probably a just opinion. Lord Salisbury questioned him very closely with respect to the precautions to be taken for your Majesty's safety. He replied that of course he would take any further measures that were thought expedient; but that in his conviction your Majesty was as safe as any person in your dominions. He insisted very much that no English anarchist had ever been found; and that even foreign anarchists made no criminal attempts here, because the atmosphere of opinion in which they found themselves here was so strongly against it.

Lord Salisbury was careful to impress upon Sir William Lockhart (who dined and slept here on Monday) the considerations with respect to the treatment of the natives upon which your Majesty laid so much stress. He appeared to concur entirely in your Majesty's views, and will no doubt heartily give effect to them. He was less satisfactory on the subject of Sir R. Warburton. He evidently thought that a man who was half an Afghan by blood could not be fully trusted. But his formal answer to any recommendation of Warburton was that his health was now so broken down that he was practically disqualified from attempting any work of an exhausting kind.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 21st Oct. 1898.—Shortly before dinner many cypher telegrams about Fashoda arrived. What is taking place is very amazing, but I do not give up hope of all yet coming right.

Mr. Morley to Sir Arthur Bigge.

57 ELM PARK GARDENS, 21st October 1898.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR BIGGE,—I venture to ask you to be so good as to lay before the Queen, at a suitable moment, what I should not think it proper or respectful that her Majesty should first learn through any public channel.

It is that I have, on the strong invitation of the trustees, undertaken to write the biography of Mr. Gladstone. He was for so many years in her Majesty's service, and took part in so many important transactions during the reign, that I believe the project may be of interest to her Majesty.

I need not say how sensible I am of the arduous nature of the task, nor with how much hesitation and humility I approach it. Some portion of the burden would be relieved, if I might hope that the work would have the good fortune of her Majesty's gracious countenance and approval. Believe me, yours very faithfully, JOHN MORLEY.

[Copy.] *Sir Arthur Bigge to Mr. Morley.*

BALMORAL, 25th October 1898.

MY DEAR MR. MORLEY,—The Queen desires me to thank you for your consideration in letting her Majesty know that you have undertaken to write the biography of Mr. Gladstone.¹

It is a matter of great satisfaction to the Queen that to you has been entrusted this laborious and essentially responsible work. The fact of its distinguished authorship will, the Queen believes, ensure

¹ Mr. Herbert Gladstone, on behalf of the executors, had also conveyed the information to the Queen through Sir Arthur Bigge, and had received through the same channel her Majesty's thanks and satisfaction, together with a reminder that "the Queen concludes that none of the correspondence between her and Mr. Gladstone will be published without being submitted to H.M." Mr. Herbert Gladstone wrote on 30th October that "the executors would consider it a primary duty to ascertain her Majesty's pleasure before proposing to publish any correspondence between her Majesty and my father." See also below, pp. 302-3.

its recognition as a standard history for all time. For this reason her Majesty feels sure that you will appreciate the importance of treating the subject impartially, uninfluenced as much as possible by the strong personal affection and loyal political attachment which is known to have existed between you and Mr. Gladstone. Yours, A. B.

Sir Nicholas O'Connor¹ to Queen Victoria.

THERAPIA, 24th Oct. 1898.—Sir Nicholas O'Connor presents his humble duty to the Queen.

In obedience to her Majesty's commands, Sir Nicholas did not fail, at his audience of the 14th inst., to tell the Sultan that he had been desired by his gracious Sovereign to recommend to his Majesty's special care the Queen's numerous Indian subjects who annually made pilgrimages to Mecca.

Sir Nicholas referred to complaints which had reached her Majesty's ears respecting the unjust and vexatious treatment to which her Majesty's Indian Mussulman subjects were constantly exposed on their long and wearisome travels to Mecca, and of the pain which these reports caused to her Majesty.

The complaints appear to be well founded, and Sir Nicholas was commanded by his gracious Sovereign to express the hope that the Sultan would be pleased to give imperative orders to prevent the repetition of such grievances, and also for the better treatment in future of Indian pilgrims to Mecca.

The Sultan enquired as to the particular grievances complained of, and after listening attentively to the statements made by Sir Nicholas respecting the cruel extortions, vexatious delays and other reprehensible proceedings of the officials, his Majesty spoke as follows :

“ He was not only a Moslem Sovereign himself, but also the Caliph. It was right and natural therefore that he should take an interest in all Moslems, of whatever nationality, repairing to the Holy Mecca. His

¹ British Ambassador at Constantinople.

feelings were in entire sympathy with the Queen's request, and he would see that all cause of complaint should be removed and the Indian pilgrims afforded proper care and protection."

While thanking his Majesty for these assurances Sir Nicholas said it would be a still greater satisfaction to his gracious Sovereign if he could report the particular measures which his Imperial Majesty proposed to take for this object. The Sultan replied that he would without delay appoint a Commission to enquire and report upon the condition and treatment of the Indian pilgrims. He would meanwhile give orders to afford Indian pilgrims all proper facilities and protection against illegal impositions of any kind. He would also let it be known that these orders were given in consequence of the direct representations of the Queen Empress, for whose person he had the highest veneration.

Sir Nicholas considers that the satisfactory assurances he was authorised to convey to the Queen are entirely due to the Sultan's deep respect and regard for her Majesty, and to his sense of obligation for the invariable kindness shown by the Queen towards her Majesty's Mussulman subjects. The occasion was certainly otherwise not a favourable one for preferring a request to the Sultan, as Sir Nicholas had just before felt bound to refuse to recommend to favourable consideration his Majesty's personal request to be allowed to retain Turkish garrisons in some of the fortified places on the Cretan Coast.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 25th Oct. 1898.—Saw Lord G. Hamilton after breakfast. He is leaving to-morrow early for a Cabinet, which is to discuss the difficulty respecting Fashoda, which is in fact now a *point d'honneur* with the French. He said he would tell Lord Salisbury what I had already written, *viz.* that not a stone should be left unturned to prevent war, for I felt what an awful responsibility to God and man it would be

were we to go to war, and what a sacrifice of thousands of lives !

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.
[*Cypher Telegram.*]

25th Oct. 1898.—Humble duty. Following from Sir E. Monson No. 185: "Secret and most confidential. Your telegram last night secret.

"I am informed, upon authority which I consider quite trustworthy, that the advice given by Count Mouravieff to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and taken down in writing by him to be submitted to the President and Prime Minister was almost textually as follows :

" 'Avoid furnishing a pretext to England for attacking you *now*. At a later date Russia will find an opportunity of opening the whole Egyptian question.'

"I do not believe Russia's support was either contingently promised or categorically refused in the present emergency."

27th Oct.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully submits that he has received your Majesty's message with respect to the Cabinet which sat to-day.

It was agreed that an affirmative answer should be sent to the Italian request that we should attend a conference on the subject of the anarchists. This decision is in accordance with the view your Majesty expressed to Lord Salisbury.

With respect to Fashoda, there was a very long discussion and much difference of opinion. It was at last agreed that M. de Courcel should be informed that, so long as the French flag flew at Fashoda, it was impossible that this Government could enter upon any territorial discussion. After the flag had been removed the question of delimitation could be discussed ; but we could give no agreement with respect to the nature of the territorial arrangement to which your Majesty's Government could consent.

The treaty suggested by Sir H. D. Wolff was then debated, under which England was to agree to guarantee the Balearic and the Canary Islands, in exchange for certain stipulations as to the territory surrounding Gibraltar within the range of guns of the modern type. The Cabinet was unanimous in favour of adopting the treaty, which has already been recommended by your Majesty.

Lord Lansdowne sees no objection to the Sirdar receiving the Military G.C.B., and thinks Colonel Wingate should receive the Military K.C.B., Slatin should receive the Civil K.C.B.

Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully acknowledges receipt of your Majesty's two gracious letters.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 28th Oct. 1898.—After luncheon saw Sir F. Lascelles. Talked to him a little about the state of affairs, as I had also done last night. He said he did not believe in the report received from Sir E. Monson, which was quite antagonistic to what he had heard from other quarters, *viz.* that the Russians would give not merely moral but material assistance to the French against us. Sir Frank told me William was in fact very fond of England, and anxious to be on good terms with us, but that he was terribly imprudent in his words and actions. The visits to Constantinople and Jerusalem were much to be regretted, but he could not help hoping good might come out of evil, and that the Sultan would see he had nothing to expect from Germany.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.
[Cypher Telegram.]

28th Oct. (1898).—Humble duty. Following from Cairo :

“Commandant at Omdurman telegraphs that Marchand has himself arrived at Khartoum in the Egyptian gunboat which, as reported in my telegram

No. 279, was sent to Fashoda. He will probably leave for Cairo to-morrow.

"Captain Germain of the Marine Artillery has been left in charge at Fashoda. . . ."

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

28th Oct. 1898.—This news from Sir E. Monson about Russia's support of France in the event of war with us is most contradictory, and we ought at once to ascertain why Mr. Milbanke reported the very reverse of what Sir E. Monson now telegraphs. Ought we not to ask the Russians if such reports are true, and further get assurance of support and understanding with the other Powers, Italy, Germany, and Austria? But surely the French will not let it come to that. Trust you got both my letters.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

28th Oct. (1898).—Humble duty. Following from Sir E. Monson No. 191 :

"Ministerial crisis. Minister for Foreign Affairs says he expects that the formation of a new Cabinet will be completed by Saturday evening, as the President of the Republic sent to-day for the man who will be charged to undertake it, and who will probably succeed in the task.

"*Most confidential.*—He added that if your Majesty's Government decided to concede in principle the access to the Nile without exacting as a preliminary the evacuation of Fashoda, he will be able to remain himself as Minister for Foreign Affairs in any Cabinet that is likely to be formed. The consequence of a refusal would be such that it would be impossible to continue in office. He is therefore awaiting anxiously for the issue of your Lordship's interview with the French Ambassador this afternoon. He was very apprehensive of a rejection of his proposals."

Lord Cromer to Queen Victoria.

CAIRO, 28th Oct. 1898.—Lord Cromer, with his humble duty to your Majesty, submits that he cannot adequately express in words his sense of your Majesty's great kindness during the period of anxiety and sorrow through which he has recently passed.¹ Lord Cromer has begged his niece Susan, to whom your Majesty has been so kind, to express to your Majesty the depth of his feeling on this subject.

Although Lord Cromer is now deprived of the advice and assistance of her who, for more than twenty-two years, has been his chief support in life, he hopes still to devote whatever years of health and strength may remain to him to the service of the Sovereign whose gracious encouragement has never failed him during the many and great difficulties which he has had to encounter in the course of his Egyptian career. It was, in fact, one of the dying wishes of Lord Cromer's beloved wife that he should not abandon his work in Egypt. Lord Cromer's earnest hope is that he may be able to fulfil that wish in a manner which will continue to merit your Majesty's gracious approval.

Mr. Morley to Sir Arthur Bigge.

57 ELM PARK GARDENS, 28th October 1898.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR BIGGE,—I will beg you to be so good as to express to the Queen the deep gratitude with which I have received her Majesty's gracious words about the biography of Mr. Gladstone, and to convey to her Majesty the assurance that it will be my steadfast endeavour, while doing justice to my subject, to do no less than justice to all others.

I believe that I may have to touch matters and to refer to documents, as to which it would be indispensable that I should obtain her Majesty's sanction. In

¹ Lady Cromer died on 16th October. Three years later, Lord Cromer married, as his second wife, Lady Katherine G. L. Thynne, daughter of the 4th Marquis of Bath. He was created a Viscount on 25th January 1899, and an Earl in 1901.

this case it is needless for me to say how sincerely anxious I should be to be allowed to ascertain her Majesty's wishes and feelings, and to pay them all possible deference. Yours very faithfully, JOHN MORLEY.

[Copy.] *Sir Arthur Bigge to Mr. Morley.*

BALMORAL, 31st October 1898.

DEAR MR. MORLEY,—The Queen wishes me to thank you very much for all you say in your letter to me of the 28th inst.

I am to tell you that if you will be good enough to refer to the Queen, H.M. will be glad to render you such assistance as is in her power with regard to documents and other matters which may bear upon your biography of Mr. Gladstone. Yours very truly, A. B.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Queen.

[Cypher Telegrams.]

29th Oct. 1898.—Humble duty. *France.* If we ask Russia she would give us such an answer as would induce us to give way; that is to say, she would frighten us as much as possible. This would be quite consistent with her holding exactly opposite language to the French; for a war now would be inconvenient to her. She wishes to stop it; but whether it is stopped by France yielding or England yielding she does not care.

Sir E. Monson does not tell us where he gets his information, probably he cannot. But I suspect it is somebody who has been put in his way by Russia or France. Italy must go with us. Germany will probably try to levy blackmail. . . .

[*Same day.*]—Humble duty. Following from Paris No. 193:

“Marchand's return. *Most confidential.*

“The Minister for Foreign Affairs is furious that Marchand should have quitted his post without orders. He will find, on arriving at Cairo, orders to return at once

to Fashoda. Captain Baratier starts to-night for Cairo with instructions for his Chief. Minister for Foreign Affairs begged that this should be considered not only a confidential but also a private communication."

29th Oct.—Humble duty. Following from Paris No. 194:

"*Secret.*—Mons. Delcassé says that the new Government will not be formed before Monday. He has not yet given his consent to continue in office, chiefly on account of the uncertainty of its being found possible by your Lordship to spare France the humiliation of evacuating Fashoda and withdrawing from the Nile without her having received previously a promise that the Government will negotiate. We again argued the question. I tried to convince him that there would be no humiliation in withdrawing an expedition to which he had never explicitly given an official character, and which had never been ordered to the Nile by the French Government. He said he might have taken this line, had we not made the original statement as to our indisputable and exclusive rights. His position is that he must either accept a humiliation or go to war. His patriotism rejects the one solution; his conviction of the calamitous consequences to the two countries and the whole of Europe rejects the other.

"He wishes this conversation to be considered unofficial."

Mr. Richmond Ritchie to Sir Arthur Bigge.

INDIA OFFICE, 29th October 1898.

DEAR BIGGE,—Lord George Hamilton tells me that, when he was at Balmoral, he submitted to the Queen his suggestions as to the best means of complying with her Majesty's wishes for fuller information on Indian subjects, as expressed in your letter to me of the 26th August last.¹ He is now back here, and having made the necessary enquiries, has issued instructions that copies of all telegrams of importance from

¹ See above, p. 282.

India and of despatches relating to subjects in which her Majesty takes special interest, should be sent to her Secretaries.

Lord George Hamilton has also telegraphed to the Viceroy, asking that special reports may be sent for her Majesty's information of subjects affecting Native princes or other distinguished personages, even though they may fall outside the lines of the ordinary official correspondence.

As to the Council Minutes, Lord George Hamilton proposes to abolish the present system under which the formal record of all the business transacted by the Secretary of State in Council is submitted weekly, as the despatches sent would cover the questions in which the Queen was interested.

Lord George Hamilton understands that these arrangements will meet the Queen's wishes.¹ I am, yours very truly, RICHMOND RITCHIE.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 30th Oct. 1898.—A number of cyphers kept coming in. Mr. Bryce (staying at Abergeldie), who dined, was as usual most agreeable, and spoke very kindly about the great feeling for me in America, which had manifested itself very much at the time of the Jubilee and since. He thought it had much to do with the improved relations existing between the two countries.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 30th Oct. 1898.—I feel very anxious about the state of affairs, and think a war for so miserable and small an object is what I could hardly bring myself to consent to. We have had so many losses already on the Indian frontier, and to think of sacrificing any more is too horrible and too wrong.

We must try and save France from *humiliation*. Would it be safe to promise commercial access to the

¹ The Queen approved these arrangements.

Nile and delimitation of that region suggested in Sirdar's letter of 8th October to Lord Cromer on condition of French withdrawal from Fashoda ?

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Edmund Monson.*¹
[*Cypher Telegram.*]

30th Oct. 1898.—The following is an unofficial record of my conversation with the French Ambassador on the 27th :

“ I intimated to him that, so long as M. Marchand floated the French flag at Fashoda, any discussion between the English and French Governments upon frontier questions in that region was impossible, for if we took part in them, we should be admitting the legality of Marchand's position.

“ M. de Courcel, with great energy and at some length, repudiated the doctrine that Marchand's position was illegal. He said, however, that reports received by him seemed to H.E. to show that Fashoda could never furnish the outlet on the Nile which France sought to obtain, and that therefore it was of no use to her. He thought it therefore not improbable that Marchand would receive orders to retire.

“ I said I was glad to receive this intimation, though it was accompanied by claims of right which it was quite out of my power to admit. It was not the existence of a deep difference of opinion upon the question of right which was inconsistent with negotiation ; but the presence of a French flag upon ground to which, in our belief, France had no title.

“ If Marchand should receive the orders M. de Courcel has indicated, the obstacle to a discussion of the frontier would be removed, and whatever was at present abnormal in the diplomatic relation between the two countries would cease. It would be open to the French Government to raise a discussion upon the frontier in those regions, and their representations would be considered by H.M.'s Government in the same spirit which they would bring to the considera-

¹ Submitted by Lord Salisbury to the Queen.

tion of frontier questions which might arise between England and any other nation in any part of the world. That discussion must, however, necessarily be protracted, for it must turn in some degree on historical and geographical information which we didn't fully possess. We would gladly take measures to complete it, and in doing so we should count on the co-operation of officers in French territory. But until we had received and considered it, we could not give or imply any kind of pledge as to the conclusion to which we should be willing to come."

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

30th Oct. 1898.—Humble duty. Following sent to Lord Cromer :

"*Secret.*—Sirdar is strongly impressed with the inexpediency of letting either Marchand or Baratier go back to Fashoda. I concur with him in urging that the gunboat now at Khartoum should start at once without delay; so that if you are asked to send these two officers back you may reply with truth that there is not likely to be any gunboat starting from Khartoum for some time.

"Mons. Delcassé is very angry with Marchand, and has telegraphed to him to return immediately. He is also sending Baratier back."

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 31st Oct. 1898.—Heard with great regret that Lady Martin¹ died this morning, having been very ill for some time. It will be a dreadful blow to poor Sir Theodore.

Directly after luncheon saw the Sirdar, Lord Kitchener, who only arrived in London a few days ago. He looked very well and bronzed, but had caught a bad cold. He remained a short while, and of course I spoke to him of all that had passed and how well

¹ She was Miss Helena Faucit, the actress, before her marriage to Sir Theodore Martin.

everything had gone off. He said he thought the Khalifa would be caught or killed. We had 8,000 Dervish prisoners at Khartoum and about the same number of wounded, who were quite tractable. The former would be given land to cultivate. Lord Kitchener does not apprehend any trouble with the Abyssinians, who are friendly. Five hundred, who had been prisoners at Omdurman, had been liberated and sent back. He did not think there would be any war with France, and trusts matters may be able to be arranged. Marchand is not to return. Ismay S[outhampton], Marie M[allet], Aline Majendie, Lord Kitchener, Mr. Balfour, Sir A. Bigge, and Fritz P[onsonby] dined. Lord Kitchener sat next to me, and was very agreeable, full of information, and Mr. Balfour also made himself very pleasant.

4th Nov.—Received the following cypher from Lord Salisbury: "Sir E. Monson telegraphs that after the Cabinet Council this morning, orders were sent to French Ambassador to inform me that Fashoda would be evacuated with the least possible delay. Marchand and Baratier have been instructed to return to Fashoda to carry out this decision. M. Delcassé has expressed his hope that we will give them every facility to accomplish this. The mission has ceased to have any political character, and must henceforth be considered as a simple, inoffensive troop, armed only in self-defence against native attack. M. Delcassé assures Sir E. Monson that he will lose no time in settling the route to be taken by the mission, and has almost decided upon an eastern one, via Jebute and Obok."

This news is a great relief, but it is very strange why this sudden change has taken place. The whole matter might have been settled long ago.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.
[Cypher Telegram.]

4th Nov. (1898).—Humble duty. Following from Sir E. Monson 901:

"M. Delcassé stated to me this afternoon that it had cost him much to remain in office, and that so strong an appeal had been made to him that, at this crisis, he had not liked to shirk the responsibility of defending the decision of the Government which he expects to have to do in the Chamber on Monday next.

"I did not say anything more than that [I] rejoiced at the decision arrived at, and at his having made up his mind to remain in the Cabinet."

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

BALMORAL CASTLE, 5th Nov. 1898.—It is an immense relief to have got over this very strained relation between France and England, and I am sure it is owing to your patience and firmness.

It will be important I think to help the French as much as is proper and dignified out of the foolish and horrible *impasse* they had got into.

Ought not some reward if possible be given to Lord Cromer? The Sirdar ought to get the G.C.B., and I should like to give it him myself before he leaves England.

I am glad to see Cretan affairs are in a fair way to [be] settled.

[*Telegram.*] *Lord Kitchener to Queen Victoria.*

5th Nov. 1898.—Lord Kitchener presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and begs to express his profound thanks for your Majesty's gracious telegram. He is greatly honoured at your Majesty's approval of his speech, and was much gratified at the splendid reception given him in the City. He thanks her Majesty for her gracious enquiries, and begs to say that his cold is very much better.

Mr. Harrington to the Marquis of Salisbury.

ADDIS ABABA, 5th November 1898.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to report for your Lordship's information that her Majesty the Queen's

phonograph message was delivered to his Majesty King Menelek at Akaki on Sunday afternoon, the 30th October.

Previous to delivering the message the box containing the cylinder was opened in presence of M. Ilg and Captain Ciccadicola, the Italian Resident. Lord Denbigh's certificate, that the enclosed cylinder was the one her Majesty Queen Victoria had spoken the message on, and his certified copy of the message spoken, both of which certificates were packed with the cylinder, were handed over to M. Ilg for delivery to the King. The cylinder was then tried a few times so as to get the correct tone. The message was received with ceremony by the King, and after it was delivered, an artillery salute was fired, the King standing to show his respect for the honour paid him.

The King heard the message several times, and expressed his thanks for the honour paid him by her Majesty, more especially because, having tried speaking into a phonograph himself, he thoroughly realised the trouble that her Majesty must have taken in sending the message. He said that, hearing her Majesty's voice, he felt as if they were face to face, and he said that, should he ever go to Europe, his first business would be to see her Majesty in person.

I then left the phonograph to allow his Majesty to have the message repeated to Queen Taitou. M. Ilg informed me that Queen Taitou recognised her own name in the message, and said, "She says my name." Queen Taitou asked if she could have a life of the Queen. I was also informed that the King took the opportunity of again listening to her Majesty's message several times, and expressed his surprise that her Majesty's voice at her age should be so firm and distinct.

The cylinder was then returned to me and immediately broken into pieces as promised. Owing to the fact that the disc of the recording stylus was unfortunately broken *en route*, I was unable to accept King Menelek's return message for her Majesty, but

he has promised to speak a message as soon as I receive a new recorder, which has been written for.

There is no doubt in my mind that the King has thoroughly appreciated the honour paid him by her Majesty. I have, &c., J. L. HARRINGTON.

[*Telegram.*] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

BEYROUT, 5th Nov. 1898.—We went to see your new English Church at Jerusalem, which is very pretty, and which is very prettily situated. WILLIAM.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 9th Nov. 1898.—Dear Bertie's birthday. We must be very thankful that he recovered so well from that dreadful accident.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 14th Nov.—M. de Staal spoke very sensibly, as he always does; lamented over the imprudence of the French, and said Lord Salisbury had been placed in such a difficult position, owing to the extraordinary feeling of unanimity in this country on the Fashoda affair, which had prevented his giving [way] at all, to facilitate matters.

[*Telegram.*] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

MALTA, 16th Nov. 1898.—Our stay for coaling purposes in the quaint and picturesque harbour of Valetta in Malta has given me the pleasing opportunity of visiting some of the fine ships of the magnificent squadron assembled under the flag of Sir J. Hopkins. The *Cæsar* is the most fighting ship I ever set my foot on. The spacious decks and lofty headroom, combined with airiness and light, leave no doubt that she must be excellent accommodation for her fine crew. No need to add that she, as well as the flagship and the rest I had the pleasure of visiting, were beautifully kept, and worthy of the renown the Mediterranean Squadron enjoys in this respect. I was glad to be able to consort with such able, capable, and charming officers, as I met in the Captains of your fine ships. Beg to thank for all kindness and help shown to my ship during our stay here. WILLIAM.

Sir Charles Scott¹ to the Marquis of Salisbury.
[Cypher Telegram.] Private and Secret.

16th Nov. 1898.—I would earnestly beg that all reports, however apparently well authenticated, of any encouragement given by Russia to France or hopes held out of Russian assistance in raising general question of Egypt may be received with utmost caution.

I have best grounds for believing that any such idea can only have arisen from serious misunderstanding or misinterpretation of views of Emperor and of Russian Government, who have neither the desire nor intention to raise difficulties for England, but on the contrary wish to give some proof of the sincerity of their desire for a friendly and permanent understanding with us on all questions.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

17th Nov. 1898.—. . . As to the Emperor of Germany, Lord Salisbury is of opinion that, if he paid a visit to your Majesty, it would certainly do good. Matters have much changed during the last twelve months, and he has shown himself disposed to be friendly to this country. The attitude of France makes it desirable that the world should believe in an understanding between Germany and England. If therefore the German Emperor gives any intimation of a desire to be invited, Lord Salisbury would respectfully submit that your Majesty should comply with his wish.

Sir Coleridge Grove² to Sir Arthur Bigge.

WAR OFFICE, 18th November 1898.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—I notice that in your letter about the Bandmasters you speak of the Queen's wish that "Commissions" should be given to the three named.³ I presume that this means "Honorary Commissions"? In the case of 2nd Lieut. Dan.

¹ British Ambassador to Russia.

² Military Secretary at the War Office.

³ See above, p. 292, and below, pp. 317 and 338.

Godfrey, he was given an honorary 2nd Lieutenancy, and Lord Wolseley imagines that the Queen would desire that the same course should be followed with regard to the other three, but he wishes me to write and find out clearly before any action is taken. Yours sincerely, COLERIDGE GROVE.

Endorsed by Queen Victoria :

20th Nov. 1898.—Yes. Honorary Lts.

The Duke of Connaught to Queen Victoria.

[Copy.] [Extract.]

30th Nov. 1898.—. . . My visit to the President went off very well, and he was most civil ; he also returned my visit. He asked me whether you were going to Nice, and I told him you had not made your plans yet. Louischen and I dined with General de Négrier one night, and we went to the play together afterwards. He is most anxious to pay his respects to you, and to thank you for the honour you did him by giving him the Victorian Order in your name.

I found everyone everywhere most civil in Paris. I am told that the shopkeepers won't hear of a war with us. I think the French are calming down, and there is a great deal more feeling shown about the Dreyfus case than that of Fashoda. ARTHUR.

Sir Edmund Monson to Queen Victoria.

PARIS, 30th Nov. 1898.—. . . Your Majesty is doubtless aware that great interest is taken in France in the decision which your Majesty may eventually take in regard to visiting Cimiez ; and that there is much anxiety lest circumstances should cause your Majesty to alter the intention to which it is understood that you have arrived. Whatever may be the condition of the international relations between England and France, the respect entertained for your Majesty throughout this country, and the appreciation of your Majesty's yearly visits to the French coast of the Mediterranean, remain unchanged. . . .

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 1st Dec. 1898.—Dined in the big dining-room. Lenchen, Christian, Thora, Frank Teck, Cecilia D[owne], Sir Edward and Lady E. Malet, Count Seckendorff, Lord Edward Cecil, Mr. and Lady Georgina Buchanan, Countess Perponcher, Victor Churchill, Lord Tullibardine, Sir Alfred Milner, Ethel Cadogan, Bessie Bulteel, Lord E. Clinton, and Sir John McNeill dined. Sir Alfred Milner, who is at the Cape, has only come to England for six weeks. He says things are tolerably quiet and improving, but that the Boers were not likely to be any better.

3rd Dec.—At 11.20 left with Beatrice and Thora for Netley. Lord Kitchener joined us at the station. Lunched in the train, and drove as before to the hospital, which we reached at a quarter to two. I was received as usual by the authorities.

Surgeon-General Nash and Miss Norman, the Lady Superintendent, accompanied me into the various wards and corridors, along which I was rolled. All the invalids, who were able to stand, were drawn up in these corridors. I visited many wards, seeing some sick who had been there last time. A great many came from India yesterday, and there were still some from the Indian frontier. Saw a number of sick and wounded from the Soudan, amongst them Sergeant Freeman, of the 21st Lancers, who lost the left side of his nose at Omdurman, and Private Logan, of the Seaforth Highlanders, shot in the left hip, also at Omdurman. The men seemed so delighted to see Lord Kitchener, and several had pictures of him stuck up over their beds. There were several men who had been badly injured during the manœuvres, including an officer in the Army Service Corps, Lieutenant Cannot, who was lying on an ambulance stretcher covered with a quilt I had worked. I gave the Distinguished Conduct Medal to Staff-Sergeant Benson and Private Benson, of the Army Medical Corps, for their services in the Soudan, the latter having been wounded in the

head. Before leaving I was shown the Röntgen Ray apparatus by Dr. Stevenson. Got back to Windsor at 5.30, and had our tea with Vicky. Thora went straight back to Cumberland Lodge.

Saw Lord Kitchener after tea, to take leave of him, as he is returning to Egypt on the 7th. Gave him a cigarette case with my monogram, with which he seemed much pleased. Said a few words about Egypt and about the French, who are still inclined to give a little trouble by trying to intrigue with some of the tribes, but he did not think there was any reason to apprehend anything serious. What he feared, however, was any trouble with the Abyssinians, and he thought we ought to have more information, and that a second person should be sent out to Colonel Harrington. Lord Kitchener has already got £60,000 for the College at Khartoum.

The Earl of Minto to Queen Victoria.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA, 4th December 1898.

MADAM,—I think your Majesty might like to receive a letter stamped with the new Canadian Imperial stamp.¹ The Postmaster-General here has sent them to me privately, and as they are not to be issued for sale before next Tuesday, the post office has received special orders to accept these stamps sent to me, so that the stamp your Majesty receives on this letter will be the first issue to cross the Atlantic. Your Majesty is no doubt aware that the Canadian Imperial penny postage does not come into force till Xmas; it is therefore necessary to affix three stamps, whereas after Xmas one will be sufficient. I had the honour, a few days ago, of striking the first impression. I hope your Majesty [will] approve it; the Imperial idea the map is intended to convey is, I venture to think, a fine one.

I was rather amused by the remark of an American Senator who called here the other day when I asked him if he admired the stamp, of which I had some

¹ It apparently bore a map of the world with the Empire in red.

proof copies. "Very pretty," he said; "but a great deal too much red about it!" The Post Office authorities here tell me they were sorely tempted to paint Egypt red too, but thought it better not! . . . I beg to remain, your Majesty's humble and obedient servant, MINTO.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 6th Dec. 1898.—After tea [saw] Lord and Lady Curzon,¹ who seem most anxious to fill their post well and wisely. Then I received the Baron de Courcel, who presented his letter of recall, and thanked me for all my kindness, after which I had some conversation with Lord Salisbury, who spoke of M. de Courcel, and how unhappy he was about the state of France, and the end of his mission being unsuccessful. Ismay Southampton, who has succeeded Edith Lytton, Countess Perponcher, M. de Courcel, Lord Salisbury, Lord and Lady Curzon, Lord Clarendon, Sir William Colville, Count Seckendorff, and Sir J. McNeill dined. M. de Courcel sat on my left. He was, as always, most amiable and civil. I talked of the horrible book published by a Herr von Busch, who was Secretary to Bismarck, noting down all the disloyal and atrocious things against Fritz and Vicky, and the old Emperor and Empress Augusta. He said, "C'est horrible," but that he had himself heard Bismarck say some of the things.

9th Dec.—Received the new French Ambassador, M. Cambon, who comes from Constantinople. Afterwards saw Lord Salisbury for some time. We spoke of the new French Ambassador, of the feeling of the French towards England; he fears they may still give much trouble in some ways, but thinks I can perfectly well go to Cimiez, and that my putting off going might create a panic. Ismay S., M. Cambon, Lady de Ramsey, Lord Salisbury, Nelly Brett and her husband, Lord Clarendon, Sir Wm. Colville,

¹ Mr. George Curzon, Viceroy Designate, had been created an Irish peer, so that there might be no bar, on his return from India, to his sitting in the House of Commons again.

and Colonel Clark dined with us five, which included Lenchen, Thora, and Christle. M. Cambon sat next to me, and is very agreeable and well informed. He told me a great deal about Constantinople, and the terrible state of affairs they had to witness there at one time, without being able to do anything. He also spoke of Spain, where he had been some time, and of the great difficulties the poor Queen Regent has.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Sir Arthur Bigge.

WAR OFFICE, 15th December 1898.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—I have just approved the grant of honorary commissions to Bandmasters C. Godfrey, of the Royal Horse Guards, and L. Zavertal, of the Royal Artillery.

The question of a commission for Mr. Miller of the Royal Marines rests as you know with the Admiralty.

The Commander-in-Chief will submit the names in due course to her Majesty. I am, my dear Bigge, yours sincerely, LANSDOWNE.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 11th Dec. 1898.—Much grieved to hear that good old Sir William Jenner, who had been for so many years (from '61 to '93) my physician, had died this afternoon. He had been a most devoted and faithful servant of mine, a most able doctor, and a truly kind friend, to whom I could always speak frankly and confidentially. I have greatly missed him during the last five years, when he could no longer come to see me. He had been with me during the saddest moments of my life, having been most kind and attentive at this most terrible time, now thirty-seven years ago; again at Sandringham, during Bertie's most alarming illness in '71, and when dear Leopold was so dreadfully ill on two occasions and Sir William, under Providence, really saved his life. On many other trying and sad occasions he showed much kindness, and was always full of sympathy, though

naturally of rather an irascible temper. He gave up travelling with me after the year '79, never going any more either abroad or to Scotland. It is another link with the past gone, and I feel it very much.

Queen Victoria to Prince George of Greece.

[*Copy.*]

WINDSOR CASTLE, 11th December 1898.

MY DEAR GEORGE,—I wish to express to you my satisfaction at your nomination to the very important office of High Commissioner of Crete, and my earnest good wishes for your success in this difficult position. If you act with perfect impartiality towards the Christians and Mohammedans, you will be able in time to restore peace and prosperity to that unhappy island, which will be a reward for all the difficulties you will have to encounter.

You will have felt your dear Amama's¹ death very much, for I heard how devoted you were to her. Believe me, always your affectionate aunt, VICTORIA R. I.

Prince George of Greece to Queen Victoria.

ATHENS, 16th December 1898.

MADAM,—May your Majesty allow me to thank you most sincerely for the kind wishes you expressed in the letter you have honoured me with?

I am quite aware of the difficulties which my new office as High Commissioner of Crete encounters, but I hope to overcome them all, by following your Majesty's good advices of acting in a perfect impartial manner towards the Christians and Mohammedans, and to secure thus the island's and the population's prosperity.

May I also express my deepest and most heartfelt thanks to your Majesty for your sympathy on behalf of our dear Amama's death?

In thanking your Majesty once more for your letter, which I always shall cherish and keep as an

¹ Grandmama—the Queen of Denmark.

historical document, I remain, your Majesty's most obedient servant, GEORGE.¹

[*Copy.*] *Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.*

OSBORNE, 19th Dec. 1898.—The Queen thanks Lord Salisbury for his letter respecting the Hospital Ship.

She cannot help saying that the answer is not satisfactory, and that it only shows what a state of confusion and want of proper efficiency the War Department is in. The Queen cannot for a moment allow any blame to rest on that very distinguished Medical Officer, Surgeon-General Taylor, who only answered the Queen's questions, which she maintains she has a right to ask; in fact, that it is her duty to try and find out the truth. The Queen will not pursue the painful subject farther now, but much will have to be done by-and-by, and above all to clear up the position of the Commander-in-Chief and Secretary for War, who seems to usurp *all* authority—which never existed or she thinks never was intended. Ever since the Office of Secretary for War was created, in a great hurry in '54, it has never been satisfactory, and there have been and are endless quibbles and equivocation.

Surgeon-General Taylor to Sir Arthur Bigge.

Private. JR. ARMY AND NAVY CLUB, ST. JAMES'S STREET.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR BIGGE,—I did not mean to let you hear anything about my very bad quarter of an hour with the Secretary of State, and I am sorry that you should have heard of it. I cannot think how you did.

I am distressed too that her Majesty should have been told anything about it, for really I did not mind the expressed displeasure, so long as the truth of my statement to the Queen was not questioned. That was not possible.

¹ In a private letter, apparently to the Duke of York, Prince George wrote: "I can't tell you how honoured I felt, and how touched I really was, by receiving a letter written by [the Queen's] own hand. She has always been remarkably kind to me, but this last mark of kindness has touched me beyond words."

I wonder whether the whole file of papers was sent for your perusal to the Queen!

Please do not think anything more about the matter. I do not suppose the Secretary of State will stop my promotion or advancement because I told the truth. Yours very truly, W. TAYLOR.

*Viscount Cromer to the Marquis of Salisbury.*¹
[*Cypher Telegram.*]

CAIRO, 20th Dec. 1898.—State of health of the troops on the Blue Nile, particularly of the English Officers, is causing much anxiety. Could you urge the War Office to accelerate departure of three medical officers for whom the Sirdar has already applied?

[*Copy.*] *Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.*

OSBORNE, 21st Dec. 1898.—The Queen sends this telegram to show to Lord Salisbury how neglectful they are in the War Office. The Queen knows that the feeling is strong on the subject; and she thinks that Lord Lansdowne is not aware of the delay and grievances there are, as he is far too anxious to do what is right if he knew.

The Queen is determined to pass over nothing, but to bring all the shortcomings direct to the Prime Minister officially, when the health, nay the lives, of her soldiers are in danger.

Prince George of Greece to Queen Victoria.
[*Telegram.*]

CANEA, 21st Dec. 1898.—Have been received in the most cordial manner, population cheered your Majesty, and expressed thanks for everything your Majesty has done for Crete. GEORGIE.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

23rd Dec. 1898.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully acknowledges your Majesty's two letters referring to the War Office. He has sent to

¹ This apparently is the telegram to which the Queen calls Lord Salisbury's special attention in the following letter.

the War Office to press them with respect to Lord Cromer's demand for more medical men.

Lord Salisbury is very far indeed from disputing generally the justice of your Majesty's complaints against the War Office. The difficulty is to find where the neglect or faulty action lies. He remembers that similar complaints were, very justly he believes, made against the War Office under the administration of Mr. Stanhope, of Colonel Stanley, of Mr. Hardy. It would seem probable therefore that there is some special difficulty in the subject, or some special defect in the machinery; and that the fault cannot in the main be charged to individual Secretaries of State. Lord Salisbury will do all he can to remedy these defects, though he is not sanguine of succeeding where so many men have failed. It is evident that the subject-matter is one of colossal difficulty; for the Americans in Cuba and the French in Madagascar have failed far more conspicuously in making due provision for the health and comfort of the soldiers on active service than can be charged to the organisers and leaders of the Egyptian operations. Lord Lansdowne is at present in county Kerry for Christmas; but when he comes back Lord Salisbury will speak to him again upon the subject.

Sir Frank Lascelles to Queen Victoria.

BERLIN, 24th December 1898.—Sir Frank Lascelles presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and has the honour to report that on the 19th instant, he had an opportunity, afforded to him by an invitation to dine with the Emperor and Empress on that day, to carry out the commands conveyed in your Majesty's gracious letter of the 7th instant.

Sir Frank informed the Emperor that he had been commanded by your Majesty to inform him that your Majesty hoped to see him in the course of the year, but not upon the occasion of your Majesty's birthday. His Majesty replied that he had already received this intimation from the Empress Frederick. He added

that he was looking forward with the greatest eagerness to seeing your Majesty, that he had been greatly touched by your Majesty's gracious intention to have invited him to Windsor, if he had touched at an English port on his return from the East; and, if he had known in time, he would certainly, at any risk of inconvenience, have carried out his original intention.

His Majesty had recently heard with great satisfaction that the Prince of Wales had referred to him in friendly terms, and his Majesty also threw out a suggestion that their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York would be welcome if they thought of paying a visit to Berlin.

The Emperor also told Sir Frank that he proposed, in commemoration of your Majesty's eightieth birthday, to offer a gold cup for a yacht race at Kiel, for which he hoped that many English yachts would compete.

Sir Frank will not trouble your Majesty with an account of the political conversation with which the Emperor honoured him on this occasion, and of which he has attempted to give a full report in his official correspondence with Lord Salisbury. He would, however, venture to express the hope that the friendly sentiments with which his Majesty is inspired towards your Majesty and England may be satisfactory to your Majesty and may long continue. It was a special gratification to Sir Frank to hear the terms of devoted admiration in which the Emperor, as always in his conversations with him, referred to your Majesty.

Sir Frank has the honour to subscribe himself your Majesty's most loyal and faithful subject and servant, FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Sir Arthur Bigge to Queen Victoria.

25th Dec. 1898. — Lord Salisbury told Count Hatzfeldt that H.M. Government had informed Portugal that we should view with extreme aversion any idea of placing the Azores under the power or influence of any

nation except Portugal. This protest, Lord Salisbury [said], was made because he suspected the possibility of France obtaining an undue position in those islands.

Count Hatzfeldt received this information in a disconcerted manner, and did not recover his equanimity for some time ; but Lord Salisbury cannot suggest what caused this change of manner.

The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.

POTSDAM, 20th December 1898.

MOST BELOVED GRANDMAMA,—Allow me by these lines to convey to your feet my best thanks for the pretty flower-pot which graced my Xmas table, and upon which I look with feelings of gratitude for your never-ending kindness to me. Our Xmas was spent in the usual manner, with the difference that we were at the Stadtschloss in Potsdam. The children were all present, though the younger ones suffered from colds and unblowable noses. Whereas myself suffered from a sudden attack of fever and prostration, which kept me in bed for the greater part of the Xmas holidays, and came partly from being overworked.

The old year closes with a great success to your arms and policy in Africa, which will make the faces merry in British homes and the hearts of your soldiers beat higher ! And well they may ! For what can a soldier or sailor do better than win and fight for the country of his birth and for his Queen ? I have also to thank you for all the kind messages which you sent me through Sir Frank, who transmitted them with a face happy at being able to do so and by the souvenirs of his stay at Balmoral. I am so sorry I was not informed of the little plot you and Mama had hatched for a meeting now on our homeward voyage ; had I known it beforehand, I would have braved any amount of rolling and pitching in the “ Bay ” only to be able to see you !

The coming year looks queer enough ! France is in a terrible plight, and the fight about Dreyfus, etc., has disclosed a fearful amount of corruption and injustice

in the Government and Army circles. The longing for scandal, the perpetual, startling "disclosures" have created a most deplorable state of excitement, which may one day ease itself in some sort of explosion towards inside or outside! Voltaire saw his countrymen were "half apes and half tigers." It seems to me as if they were in the act of changing from the first to the latter.

The state of Russia's finances is bad! On the brink of a collapse, one may say. First on account of the enormous amount of steadily increasing battalions, etc., which, as far as our frontiers are concerned, are nearly on war strength since *fifteen years*. Secondly, because there is a dreadful agricultural calamity which has been slowly developing since the last five or six years. The utterly impoverished peasants are suffering from a terrible famine, generating typhus and other diseases. Millions have been spent by private help, Red Cross, the Tsar himself without effect, so that according to my latest news the Government will have to ask for 100 millions of marks from the Emperor to fight the evil! Added to this the bills for the Siberian railway and the Navy run enormously high, so that there is cause enough for proclaiming a "Peace Conference"! But the informations I have till now managed to extract about the so-called programme and plans are not very lucid and far from reassuring. A general agreement is to be come to, that we others are not to invent new rifles or guns or form new battalions, whereas the thickness of the armour on the British battleships is to be "internationally" limited to a certain thickness only! I suppose for "international" shells to be able to pierce it! Though how the Ambassadors are to find out the relation by comparison of an inch of British steel on H.M. ships to a rifle battalion in Tyrol is more than I can tell!

Anyhow, our relations are now so clearly defined, and the necessity for respecting our mutual interests and the possibility of mutual help are gaining more and more on our subjects, that I look out with absolute confi-

dence into the coming year! May it bring Peace or War, at all events may it bring you health and strength and success everywhere with the hand of God to shield and ward you from all evil! How nice that dear Mama could be near you! She enjoys her stay so much. With the hopes of seeing you next year in best of health, I kiss your hands, and most respectfully remain, ever your most dutiful and loving Grandson,
WILLY.

Lord Kitchener to Queen Victoria.

HEADQUARTERS, EGYPTIAN ARMY, 29th Dec. 1898.
—Lord Kitchener presents his humble duty to your Majesty and begs to inform your Majesty that he reached Khartoum yesterday; he found the troops had suffered a great deal from the severe malarial fever contracted on the Blue Nile, as well as from the very hard work they have recently had both on the Blue and White Niles, as well as on the Abyssinian frontier. The Army has lost nearly two thousand men through death or from being invalided since the battle of Khartoum, so that some time will be required to reorganise and recruit. . . .

I beg to express my most sincere thanks to your Majesty for having subscribed to the Gordon Memorial College. I have heard to-day that £111,000 have been subscribed. I hope, when Lord Cromer arrives here in a few days, he will lay the foundation-stone in your Majesty's name.

When I was passing Berber I told the Sheikhs and headmen about the college. They had already heard about it from the papers, and were quite delighted; they told me they had already got 150 boys they wished to send to the college; but I had to inform them I could not allow Berber so large a proportion of the education of the college, and that I would select fifty from their boys. I feel sure that the knowledge that England is going to educate the people of the Soudan has had a good effect throughout Egypt. I was glad that the Khedive subscribed, as it makes

all the Mohammedans feel that the college should be supported.

I humbly beg to express my sincere hope that your Majesty may have a happy and prosperous New Year.

The Marquis of Dufferin to Queen Victoria.

CLANDEBOYE, IRELAND, 30th Dec. 1898.—The Marquis of Dufferin and Ava presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and only takes advantage of your Majesty's gracious permission to write to you from time to time, in order to wish your Majesty a happy New Year, and every blessing that this world can afford.

Lord Dufferin is sure that your Majesty must have been greatly gratified by the course of recent events, by the destruction of the Mahdi's domination over the Soudan, and by the deference which France, however unwillingly, has been compelled to pay to the legitimate demands of your Majesty's Government. The effect produced upon the Continent by the stand we have thus made has been very striking.

From one end of Europe to the other the eminence of our position has been acknowledged, and in no previous reign has the name of England and its Sovereign stood higher in the estimation of the world at large. The sudden change, too, in the attitude of America and in the sentiment of its people is another circumstance which must have pleased your Majesty very much; and Lord Dufferin trusts that the effect of this new departure may continue for many a long day to falsify the forebodings which he could not help a few years ago expressing to your Majesty in reference to the innate hostility amongst many classes of Americans towards Great Britain.

Lord Dufferin, however, must not trouble your Majesty further, and will content himself with again laying at your Majesty's feet the expression of his deep gratitude for the constant kindness and consideration your Majesty has shown towards him during more than fifty years; and Lady Dufferin's and his own

fervent prayers for your Majesty's health and happiness. DUFFERIN AND AVA.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 31st Dec. 1898.—The last day of a very eventful year, full of victories, but also of sad events, one in particular, very dreadful, the assassination of the sweet, good, and beautiful Empress of Austria! I have much cause for thankfulness, my dearest and nearest have been spared to me, but there are many trials too, one in particular, my failing eyesight, which is a great inconvenience; and my lameness, from rheumatism and the result of accidents, hampers me very much.

Had some conversation with Mr. Chamberlain, who says he thinks things are looking better again everywhere now; and, speaking of the Colonies, he said it was becoming a great difficulty and trouble to find suitable Governors for them. In former times people who had served their country well in different smaller colonies were promoted to the larger ones; and this seemed to answer extremely well; but now the Colonies were not content unless a person of high rank and remarkable distinction was appointed; and yet the salary was not increased to enable their proper position being kept up. Several of the peers who had gone out had not wished to remain their full time, which increased the difficulty. Mr. Chamberlain said he felt the time had nearly come when a circular would have to be written informing the Colonists that they must increase the salary and take those who were most fitted for the post, irrespective of position or name.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE TO CHAPTER XV

IN 1899 the trouble which had long been brewing in South Africa came to a head. The grievances of the rapidly growing Uitlander population in the Transvaal—grievances which had provoked the Jameson Raid of 1896—had become intensified with every year that passed without redress. Throughout the rest of South Africa the two white races, British and Dutch, had equal civil rights; and, when the Transvaal had its internal independence restored after Majuba in 1881, it was understood that there also the two races would receive equal treatment. That understanding had been ignored; the Boers alone had power; and the British, to whose industry in the gold mines most of the prosperity of the state was due, and by whom the main burden of taxation was borne, were practically excluded from the franchise, and were in other ways treated, to use the picturesque expression of Sir Alfred Milner, the British High Commissioner, as “helots.” In reply to pressure for reform, President Kruger and his Government had even endeavoured to get rid of the control which Great Britain had retained by Convention over Transvaal Foreign Affairs, and which constituted a practical—whether or not a formal—suzerainty.

The winter of 1898–1899 was one of much uneasiness in Johannesburg, and there were various incidents emphasising the prevailing racial inequality—particularly the shooting of an Englishman named Edgar by a Boer policeman who escaped punishment. In March a gigantic petition, signed by 21,684 British subjects, was forwarded through the British Agent at Pretoria to Queen Victoria, praying for her Majesty’s protection, for an enquiry into grievances, and for a reform of abuses. In consequence a meeting between Sir Alfred Milner and Mr. Kruger was held, from 30th May to 5th June, at Bloemfontein; but it was without result. Sir Alfred concentrated on the franchise question, as, if that were satisfactorily settled, the Uitlanders would have the political power to get other abuses rectified. He asked for a retrospective arrangement enfranchising the Uitlanders after five years’ residence, giving them “immediate and substantial representation.” Mr. Kruger would not go beyond a minimum of seven years without any retroactive clause; and he demanded arbitration by a foreign Power. In July he got the Volksraad to pass a law making seven years the term, but under onerous conditions; and he refused Mr. Chamberlain’s

proposal for a joint enquiry into the practical effect of the new Act. Negotiations continued, and the British Government avoided the presentation of anything like an ultimatum, as it cherished the hope, which certainly was entertained generally in Great Britain, that, after a protracted show of resistance, Mr. Kruger would yield to demands so obviously in accordance with reason and justice.

The support of the Empire at large to the British position was testified by Parliamentary resolutions passed and offers of military aid telegraphed during July and August from Canada, Australia, and the West Indies. The legislature of Natal, which would be the first colony to suffer in case of war, expressed unanimous sympathy and approval; but opinion in Cape Colony, part British, part Dutch, was divided, and there was in power an Afrikaner Bond Ministry, under Mr. Schreiner. Mr. Kruger's procrastination moved Mr. Chamberlain, in a speech at Birmingham on 26th August, to a strong reminder that the sands were running out, and that, in case of a rupture, conditions would be imposed to establish once for all which was the Paramount Power in South Africa; and the garrison of Natal was reinforced by 10,000 men from India and the Mediterranean. In the continued negotiations there was no sign that the Transvaal contemplated serious reforms; and the Volksraad of the Orange Free State responded to an invitation from President Steyn to range themselves by the side of the Transvaal. Accordingly, on 29th September the British Government gave orders to mobilise a large force and call up the Reserve. The Transvaal determined to strike before these arrived, and issued an ultimatum, tantamount to a declaration of war, on 9th October. The Free State at once joined the Transvaal in the invasion of the British Colonies.

There was almost complete unanimity in Great Britain in support of the war. Lord Rosebery, though critical of past Government action, wrote from his retirement the decisive word. The House of Commons, in spite of some ambiguous remarks by the new Liberal leader, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, expressed its readiness to grant all necessary supplies by 322 votes to 54, and refused to condemn the conduct of the negotiations by 362 to 135. As the reinforcements from India, under Sir George White, had arrived in Natal, it was hoped that the Boers could be held in check until the main British forces could take the field. On the contrary, after some small successes in initial engagements,

Sir George's whole force was shut up in Ladysmith; and in the western theatre of war, one British force, under Colonel Kekewich, was beleaguered at Kimberley, and another, under Colonel Baden-Powell, at Mafeking. When Sir Redvers Buller, the Commander-in-Chief, arrived at Cape Town early in November, he organised a force under Lord Methuen to proceed to the relief of Kimberley, another under General Gatacre to repel the invasion of Cape Colony by the Free State, and a larger force in Natal, where he shortly proceeded to take the command in person, to relieve Ladysmith. Lord Methuen fought three successful engagements, at Belmont on 23rd November, at Enslin on 25th, and at Modder River on 28th—the last two strenuous battles with heavy losses. A fortnight later there came a "black week." On 10th December General Gatacre failed in a night attack at Stormberg, on 11th Lord Methuen was defeated with severe loss at Magersfontein, and on 15th Sir Redvers Buller met with a serious reverse at Colenso, in an attempt to cross the Tugela in his advance on Ladysmith. Sir Redvers' judgment was so affected by his defeat that he telegraphed home suggesting that he should "let Ladysmith go"—a course promptly rejected by Ministers, who urged him to resume his efforts for Sir George White's relief.

The Queen, the Cabinet, and public opinion alike felt that only one policy was possible—the most vigorous prosecution of the war. On 16th December, the very day after Colenso, the Government resolved to entrust the command-in-chief in South Africa to the tried veteran, Lord Roberts, with Lord Kitchener as Chief of his Staff, leaving the command of the Natal Field Force to Sir Redvers Buller; to call up the rest of the Reserve; to send out further troops forthwith; to utilise to a large extent the services of Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers; and to accept the offers of military aid that came pouring in from the great Colonies. The response, both at home and in the Colonies, was extraordinary. Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers vied in their readiness to serve. The City of London raised and equipped at its own expense a regiment of 1,400 marksmen, the City Imperial Volunteers, from Metropolitan Volunteer Corps. Before the year closed, contingent after contingent had been authorised from all parts of the Empire. The spectacle impressed the world; and, though the Continental newspapers almost universally reviled and belittled us, their Governments maintained a strict neutrality.

While British arms had a temporary set-back in South Africa, in the Nile Valley the Khalifa and most of his remaining emirs were defeated and slain in battle in November by an Anglo-Egyptian force under Sir Reginald Wingate, who, on Lord Kitchener's summons to join Lord Roberts, became Sirdar and Governor-General of the Soudan. In Australia the Federal Act was passed in five out of six Colonies, Western Australia still hesitating. The Samoan question was settled by Great Britain consenting to let the islands be divided between the United States and Germany, and to secure for herself the Tonga and other neighbouring islands. Germany also bought the Caroline and other Pacific Islands from Spain. A satisfactory boundary line was drawn for British Guiana by the Venezuelan Arbitration in Paris.

In France, President Faure died suddenly in February, and M. Loubet succeeded him. Again the Dreyfus case dominated politics. Violent scenes, in which M. Déroulède figured conspicuously, and in which even the President was sometimes insulted, constantly occurred in the streets of Paris. The Court of Cassation in June set aside the judgment against Dreyfus, and remitted the case to a fresh Court-martial at Rennes, which ultimately, on 9th September, found him guilty, but with extenuating circumstances, by 5 votes to 2. Happily the weak Dupuy Ministry had meanwhile been succeeded by a much stronger combination under M. Waldeck-Rousseau. General Galliffet, the War Minister, recommended the President to grant Dreyfus a free pardon; and made it his own business to purge the army of anti-Semite and insubordinate Generals. M. Déroulède was prosecuted and eventually convicted and sentenced.

The Peace Conference, to which the Tsar had invited the Powers, met at The Hague on 18th May. Its principal outcome was a resolution by the signatory Powers to resort to arbitration or mediation before appealing to arms, and the establishment of a permanent international court at The Hague.

Queen Victoria's eightieth birthday drew the affectionate thoughts of her world-wide subjects to her on 24th May. Towards the close of November her Majesty welcomed to Windsor on a five days' visit the German Emperor and Empress and two of their sons, accompanied by Count Bülow. The Imperial party spent three days afterwards as guests at Sandringham. The Queen took an absorbing interest in the South African war; and her faith in complete victory was not at all shaken by the reverses of the "black week."

CHAPTER XV

1899

[*Telegram.*] *Lord Cromer to Queen Victoria.*

KHARTOUM, 5th Jan. 1899.—At Sirdar's request I this morning laid foundation-stone of Gordon College in your Majesty's name. CROMER.

[*Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to Lord Cromer.*

5th Jan. 1899.—Accept best thanks gratifying telegram. May this good work prosper and bring welfare and happiness to the inhabitants of that great country! V. R. I.

Lord Cromer to Queen Victoria.

KHARTOUM, 5th Jan. 1899.—. . . Lord Cromer little thought a few years ago he would ever have the honour of addressing a letter to your Majesty from a spot a few hundred yards from where General Gordon was killed.

Lord Cromer ventures to enclose copies of two short speeches, the first of which he made yesterday at Omdurman to the assembled Sheikhs and notables with a view to explaining the general principles which would in future govern the administration of the Soudan. The second was made this morning at Khartoum on the occasion of laying the foundation-stone of the Gordon College. In both speeches Lord Cromer was authorised to make use of your Majesty's name. He trusts that the language he employed will meet with your Majesty's gracious approval.

Lord Cromer has been very much struck with the desert railway from Wadi Halfa to the Atbara, a distance of some 400 miles, which was constructed by the young Engineer Officers of your Majesty's Army. It is a most creditable piece of work, and contributed, perhaps more than anything else, to the remarkable success of the recent campaign.

The people appear, for the most part, to be in a very miserable and poverty-stricken condition. Some time must elapse before prosperity can return. Lord Cromer was much struck by the fact that many of the villagers with whom he talked enquired after Zebehr Pasha. Your Majesty will, without doubt, remember the strong representations which were made by General Gordon in 1884 on the subject of sending Zebehr Pasha to Khartoum.¹ He evidently possessed great influence, which survives even now. . . .

Sir Edmund Monson to Queen Victoria.

PARIS, 8th Jan. 1899.—Sir Edmund Monson presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and has the honour to submit that having recently been received at the Elysée for the purpose of presenting to the President your Majesty's answer to the letter of recall of the Baron de Courcel from the French Embassy in London, he thinks it may be interesting to report that M. Faure, who at once opened and read your Majesty's letter, said that he was much gratified at the conviction that your Majesty's words were not only a formal and conventional expression of approval, but conveyed a genuine appreciation of the conduct of the retiring Ambassador, during the period in which he has been accredited at your Majesty's Court. The Baron de Courcel had frequently spoken to him of your gracious kindness, and had stated to him that your Majesty's constant consideration and goodness had inspired him with sincere gratitude, and made it very painful for him to resign his post. M. Faure added that M. Cambon, who had come over to France for the

¹ See Second Series, vol. iii, pp. 480 and 482–485.

Christmas and New Year's holidays, had been profoundly impressed by the graciousness of your Majesty's reception of him as representative of the Republic; and the President added that he was confident that your Majesty would find M. Cambon to be a worthy successor to the Baron de Courcel.

M. Faure went on to refer briefly to the relations between England and France, and to express his hope that the efforts made on both sides of the Channel to preserve the peace would be successful in promoting a harmony on which the progress of civilisation almost exclusively depends. The President then at once enquired as to your Majesty's intentions with regard to a visit to the South of France, stating that he had heard with great pleasure that you had positively settled to return to Nice this spring. Sir Edmund replied that he believed that your Majesty had in fact never varied from this intention; but that he had not yet received intimation of the exact date at which you contemplate proceeding to the shore of the Mediterranean.

Before leaving the President Sir Edmund expressed his good wishes for the coming year, not only for M. Faure and his family, but for the whole of France, which gave the President the opportunity of observing, which he did with much impressiveness and gravity, that the internal situation of France was not understood abroad; and that the excitement caused by the Dreyfus case has been greatly exaggerated. As Sir Edmund has already stated to Lord Salisbury, he believes that there is some truth in M. Faure's assertion, but he is at the same time of opinion that M. Faure is himself misled when he minimises so positively the extent to which the public is interested in this question.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

Confidential.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 16th January 1899.

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—It is clear to me that we cannot, on the strength of gloomy phrases, either in the

press or an Ambassador's private letter, incur the risk of pain, which would result from a change of plans now.

There are revolutions and revolutions. If President Faure were flying for his life, it might be difficult for the Queen to remain at Cimiez. But if they went no farther than locking out the Court of Cassation, or lodging a certain number of Jews in Mazas, I do not know why H.M. should take any notice of the transaction. But if she were nervous, she could always, with her horses, find herself on the other side of the frontier in two hours. Such a change of plans might not be entirely dignified, but it would be better than countermanding the preparations now. I can suggest no precautions except perhaps taking a suite of rooms at Bordighera in the name of one of the Ladies-in-Waiting. But, as far as I can venture to forecast the situation, a bad revolution is improbable ; and if it occurs, it is likely to be accompanied by an immediate peril of war, which will entirely alter the position of the Royal party. Ever yours truly,
SALISBURY.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 23rd Jan. 1899.—Had seen Mr. Balfour before dinner, who spoke sensibly on all matters, and thought the look-out in Europe was good now, on the whole. He could not imagine why the French should have thought we were going to attack them, gave a good report of Lord Salisbury's health, regretted the violence on religious matters in this country, and the action of some which had done great harm, by adding fuel to the flames.

Bishop Davidson to Queen Victoria.

LINDISFARNE, BOURNEMOUTH, 25th January 1899.

MADAM,—Your Majesty was good enough to desire me to write about the result of my visit yesterday to Sir William Harcourt.

I had a great deal of conversation with him ; and, while in his general wish to maintain the true Pro-

testant character of the Church of England against foolish innovations I am in full agreement with him, I yet cannot think his present violent and heated letters¹ are conducive to a wise result. He is stirring up passions which had slumbered, and the result of that will be to make a solution more and more difficult.

I tried to point this out to him, but without much effect, I fear. I told him, of course, what your Majesty had said upon the subject.

I am now corresponding with Sir William privately upon some of the points raised in the controversy; and perhaps your Majesty will graciously afford me some opportunity of reporting further upon the whole subject before very long. The Bishops are placed at present in a most anxious and difficult position, as your Majesty knows.

I have the honour to be, your Majesty's obedient humble servant, RANDALL WINTON.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 27th Jan. 1899.—William's fortieth birthday. I wish he were more prudent and less impulsive at such an age!

The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.

BERLIN, 2nd February 1899.

MOST BELOVED GRANDMAMA,— . . . I fully understand how extraordinary the fact must seem to you that the tiny, weeny little brat you often had in your arms and dear Grandpapa swung about in a napkin has reached the forties! Just the half of your prosperous and successful life! It is full of heavy unceasing work, and animated with my untiring trials to emulate such grand example as you set us all. It is often full of moments when I fancy that the strain is too strong and the burden too heavy to bear. But then the trust in Him who has thus ordered it to be and who deals to everyone the measure suiting to his qualities gives one strength; as well as the happy

¹ They were appearing in *The Times*.

knowledge that you observe and follow my career with the love of a very, very kind Grandmother. And I venture to believe that, where the Sovereign will sometimes shake her wise head often over the tricks of her queer and impetuous colleague, the good and genial heart of my Grandmother will step in and show that, if he sometimes fails, it is never from want of goodwill, honesty, or truthfulness, and thus mitigate the shake of the head by a genial smile of warm sympathy and interest ! I am so glad you wish me to come and see you in England, and would be thankful to know what suits you best, Balmoral or Cowes ? After a winter like on the Riviera, we have snow and cold since two days and influenza all over Berlin.

With my warmest thanks I kiss your hand, and most respectfully remain, ever your most devoted and obedient Grandson, WILLY.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 6th Feb. 1899.—Much distressed to hear by a telegram from Dr. Bankart, who accompanied young Alfred¹ to Meran, that he is worse, and that his condition is most critical. Later there came another telegram saying : “ Now imminent danger of heart failure.” Communicated with Bertie and the rest of the family. Affie telegraphed that, on account of the bad news, he was starting for Meran at once. About seven heard from Reuter that the poor dear boy had passed away. I felt quite stunned and shaken, for what a blow this will be to his unfortunate parents, and what changes and complications it will cause ! My anxiety has been great for the last few days. Beatrice brought in a telegram from poor dear Affie, from Gotha, begging her to break the news to me. He was just starting for Meran, when he got the news. What will happen now ? Arthur, who is the next heir, cannot give up his military career here. There is still his boy, and failing him Charlie.²

¹ The Duke of Coburg's only son.

² The young Duke of Albany, son of Prince Leopold.

Colonel Barrington Foote to Sir Arthur Bigge.

WORTLEY HALL, SHEFFIELD, 6th February 1899.

MY DEAR ARTHUR,—Can you perchance throw any light on what is *really* the substantial outcome of the *Gazette* in which Miller, Godfrey, and Zavertal appeared as Second (Hon.) Lieutenants? ¹ At Woolwich we naturally assumed that this meant that they were to be officers. We were so pleased that telegrams went off to Zavertal, who was abroad, of most hearty congratulations. We asked him to mess and he dined with us. The January Army List came out, and to our astonishment Godfrey and Zavertal appeared still as *Warrant Officers*. I am *Band President* and, with the consent and wish of the Committee and also of the C.R.A. at Woolwich, wrote to Colonel Wright, D.A.G. Royal Marines, and to Colonel Brocklehurst of the Blues. The latter tells me that, as far as they can see, Godfrey and Zavertal are in the same boat, and that neither of them are officers, only *Warrant Officers* still, and that therefore they get none of the outfit allowance accorded to a man getting his commission from the ranks, nor do they benefit in eventual pension, nor in present allowances, *i.e.* the whole thing appears to be really meaningless.

Colonel Wright says: "Mr. Miller is in possession of a commission as Hon. Second Lieutenant Royal Marine Forces, signed by her Majesty. My view is that a man holding such is an officer, and that the Commission, though honorary, entirely effaces the *Warrant* he previously held."

As against this the actual wording of the War Office ruling which Colonel Wright sent to me to see is: "They are *Warrant Officers* with Hon. Commissioned rank. They do not hold substantial rank as officers" (this naturally, being from War Office, only refers to Godfrey and Zavertal).

Can you throw any light on this? H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught himself spoke to me last October

¹ See above, pp. 202-4, 812, 317, and below, pp. 342, 348, 390, 417.

about Zavertal's getting a *Commission*, and certainly I gathered that he referred to what you and I and officers generally mean by that. H.R.H. was strongly in favour of this well-deserved advancement. . . . Yours ever, F. O. BARRINGTON FOOTE.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

10 DOWNING STREET, 7th Feb. 1899.—Mr. Balfour with his humble duty to your Majesty begs humbly to inform your Majesty that Parliament opened to-day in the ordinary way. . . . Captain Bagot and Mr. F. Smith¹ (the son of the late W. H. Smith) were respectively the mover and seconder of the Address. They performed their delicate functions with eloquence and ability.

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman followed—his first appearance as leader of the Opposition. He spoke (in Mr. Balfour's opinion) extremely well; somewhat more aggressively perhaps than is usual on such occasions, but this was perhaps not unnatural under the special circumstances of his case. He travelled over the whole field of foreign politics. His chief points of criticism were China and Crete; and he apparently aimed at proving that no weaker or more vacillating Foreign Minister than Lord Salisbury had ever existed, and that the national enthusiasm over the Fashoda affair was really a protest in disguise against the supposed indecision of the Government! On domestic affairs he had little to say except that after all that had been promised in past years by Mr. Chamberlain and others about Old Age pensions, it was strange that no mention of them was made in the Queen's Speech. Thus analysed there does not seem to be much in his criticisms, which at times were grossly unfair. But they were very well delivered and full of humorous touches and eloquent passages: it was a good beginning to his term of leadership.

Mr. Balfour replied in detail, but his reply consisted in the main of the obvious answers to obvious

¹ Afterwards Viscount Hambleden.

arguments. The only speakers of importance who addressed the House later in the evening were Sir C. Dilke and Mr. Brodrick. It was Mr. Brodrick's first appearance as Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He spoke with judgment and discretion.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

9th Feb. 1899.—The Queen has gladly approved of the Ordnance Factories being placed under military instead of civilian direction. This necessitates altering the Order in Council of 1895 which she thinks will give an excellent opportunity to further revise that unfortunate Order with a view of re-establishing the position and authority of the Commander-in-Chief, especially with regard to the discipline of the Army, for which, as Lord Salisbury himself admitted, he should be directly responsible. He ought not to be a head of a department, but the Supreme Military Chief responsible to the Sovereign (the head of the Army) for its *military*, as opposed to its *civil*, administration.

The Queen hopes Lord Salisbury will be able to do something in this most important matter, as from all quarters she hears complaints as to the management of the Army.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria

FOREIGN OFFICE, 10th Feb. 1899.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully acknowledges your Majesty's letter which he received last night. He thanks your Majesty very much for the information it contains. . . . He will carefully consider the matters concerning the War Office which your Majesty has commended to his attention. . . .

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR, 17th Feb. 1899.—Saw Lord Salisbury before dinner. The difficulties about Africa he hoped were being successfully overcome. He quite agreed with me that, while William appeared to wish to be on good terms with us, he did not wish that we should

be so with other countries and in particular Russia, whom he was always trying to set us against. Lord Salisbury does not at all believe the stories he tells.

Mr. Lister¹ to Sir Arthur Bigge.

BRITISH EMBASSY, PARIS, 17th February 1899.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—You will by this time have received the telegram in which I informed you that in the absence of the Ambassador at Cannes, I was in charge of the Embassy, although, in accordance with Foreign Office custom, I continued to sign telegrams “Monson.” I thought it wiser to apprise you of this fact in case of any misunderstanding, as Sir Edmund will not be in Paris until Sunday morning.

I received the sad news of the President’s sudden death just as I was leaving the Gustave Rothschilds, where I had dined, almost next door to the Elysée. I consequently went round at once to enquire, and was one of the first to call. They told me at the gates that nobody could be admitted, but on my sending in my name I was received by one of the Members of the Household, who confirmed the sad news. I telegraphed at once to the Queen, the Prince of Wales, and Lord Salisbury.

This morning I received the Queen’s telegram, and in accordance with her Majesty’s commands I addressed a letter to Madame Faure, conveying to her the assurance of her Majesty’s heartfelt sympathy and deep regret for the heavy blow which had fallen upon her and the whole French nation. This letter I handed myself to General Bailloud, head of the Military Household, who promised to deliver it at once to Madame Faure.

Count Münster, whom I saw this afternoon, informs me that he has, by command of the German Emperor, deposited a wreath in the Chapelle Ardente temporarily arranged in the Elysée, where Monsieur Faure’s body now lies. The Emperor of Russia has, I believe, sent a palm. . . . Yours sincerely, REGINALD LISTER.

¹ Afterwards Sir Reginald Lister.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR, 18th Feb. 1899.—Heard that M. Loubet, who had been Prime Minister in '92, had been elected by a large majority as President. He is said to be an honest respectable man, and not to have taken any violent Dreyfus part.

Had some conversation with the Bishop of London on the most unfortunate squabbles in the Church. The Low Church, who started the whole thing, were quite as violent and more so than the extreme ritualistic party, and very unreasonable. The Bishop said he was shocked to see that there was still as great a feeling for persecution in this nineteenth century as hundreds of years ago, which is very dreadful.

Queen Victoria to Madame Faure.

[Copie.]

WINDSOR CASTLE, le 19 Février 1899.

MADAME,—Je ne puis résister au vif désir que j'éprouve de vous exprimer ma sympathie et la vive part que je prends au grand malheur qui vient de vous frapper.

Le Président a été si aimable, si bon pour moi, et en toutes occasions m'a témoigné tant de courtoisie que j'en garderai toujours un bien bon souvenir.

Pour vous, Madame, si cruellement éprouvée dans la perte si soudaine de votre bien-aimé époux, je ne puis que prier que Dieu vous accorde la force et la résignation pour supporter ce coup terrible. Je me dis, Madame, votre sincère VICTORIA R. I.

Sir Coleridge Grove to Sir Arthur Bigge.

WAR OFFICE, LONDON, S.W., 27th February 1899.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—The difficulty about the Bandmasters¹ is simple, but considerable.

If we take them out of the Warrant Officers class they will not, as matters stand at present, get one farthing of pay, pensions, etc., etc. The Warrant at present provides for their pay and pensions as Warrant Officers, and in no other way. To make them

¹ See above, pp. 292-4, 312, 317, and below, p. 348.

officers we must constitute a new class of Bandmaster (Officer), with special rates of pay and pension provided for it, just as pay and pensions are provided for Quartermasters in Arts. 229 and 534 of the Warrant. This will require the insertion of new Arts. in the Warrant which can only be done with Treasury sanction. All this can be done, and Lord Wolseley is quite ready to put the proposal forward. But it will take time, and I myself anticipate some difficulty with the Treasury. . . . Yours sincerely, COLERIDGE GROVE.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 28th Feb. 1899.—After tea saw Slatin Pasha, who has come to stay for three days. He brought mesouvenirs he had had made for me, a piece of stone from the step on which General Gordon was killed at Khartoum, and a frame containing dried roses from the garden of Gordon's Palace with his photograph. He rejoiced in the great success of the expedition to Omdurman, and said what a satisfaction it had given him to enter in triumph the place in which he had suffered so much. It was of course unfortunate that the Khalifa had not been caught.

[Draft.] *Queen Victoria to the Emperor of Russia.*

WINDSOR CASTLE, 1st March 1899.—I feel I must write and tell you something which you *ought* to know and perhaps do not. It is, I am sorry to say, that William takes every opportunity of impressing upon Sir F. Lascelles that Russia is doing all in her power to work against us ; that she offers alliances to other Powers, and has made one with the Ameer of Afghanistan against us.

I need not say that I do not believe a word of this, neither do Lord Salisbury nor Sir F. Lascelles.

But I am afraid William may go and tell things against us to you, just as he does about you to us. If so, pray tell me openly and confidentially. It is so important that we should understand each other, and that such mischievous and unstraightforward

proceedings should be put a stop to. You are so true yourself, that I am sure you will be shocked at this. . . . V. R. I.¹

Lord Brassey to Queen Victoria.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MELBOURNE, 1st March 1899.—Lord Brassey presents his humble duty to the Queen Empress, and desires briefly to report the progress made in relation to Australian Federation. The ultimate adoption of a Federal Government seems assured in all the colonies of Australia with the exception of Western Australia. Some time must necessarily be occupied in obtaining the approval of the legislatures and the endorsement of the popular vote. It seems inevitable that the reference to the Imperial Legislature must be postponed to the session of 1900. The Federal Government will not therefore be constituted until the end of next year.

In the interval the selection of a Governor-General will be considered ; and Lord Brassey humbly submits to your Majesty that the presence of a Member of the Royal Family, whether as a Special Commissioner to open the first Federal Parliament, or in some other position of dignity, is highly desirable.

It would be greatly appreciated, and could not fail to have a powerful effect in encouraging the loyal feeling of the millions of her Majesty's subjects who have found a home in Australia.

Viscount Wolseley to Queen Victoria.

WAR OFFICE, 8th March 1899.—Lord Wolseley presents his humble duty to the Queen, and has learnt with satisfaction from Sir A. Bigge that her Majesty wishes that the Commander-in-Chief should have charge of and be responsible for the discipline of the Army.

Until the Order in Council of 1895 that responsibility has always been one of the most important functions of the Commander-in-Chief. It is still the function of the Commander-in-Chief of all foreign

¹ This letter is printed in a note to Lee's *King Edward VII*, vol. i, p. 741.

armies, and is so still that of the General Officer Commanding in Ireland, in India, and in all our possessions beyond the sea. The words of the Order in Council bearing on this matter are : "The Commander-in-Chief shall exercise general command over her Majesty's Military Forces at home and abroad, shall issue army orders, and hold periodical inspection of troops. He shall be the principal adviser of the Secretary-of-State on all military questions, and shall be charged with the general supervision of the Military Departments of the War Office." On the other hand, the Order says : "The Adjutant-General shall be charged with the discipline, etc., etc., etc., of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Regular and Reserve Forces."

Thus, whilst the Commander-in-Chief exercises general control, the Adjutant-General is directly charged with and responsible for discipline, and only one officer in an army can be held responsible for its discipline. That responsibility cannot be shared by two without danger.

The system applied to the Army in Great Britain could not be carried out with an army in the field. It is, however, an arrangement that Lord Wolseley accepted upon assuming the office he now holds, and therefore, although contrary to his views of sound military organisation, he can have no good personal reason to complain of it. It is Lord Lansdowne's intention, as he has assured the Commander-in-Chief, that the Adjutant-General should invariably consult the Commander-in-Chief upon all important questions and matters which bear upon the discipline of the Army, but he does not wish to alter the wording of the Order in Council upon the subject. I have the honour to be, your Majesty's most humble and faithful servant, WOLSELEY.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 10th March 1899.—Dreadfully grieved and upset on coming in to get a telegram from

my dear good Emilie Dittweiler's sister, saying Emilie had had a stroke or heart failure, and had died peacefully last night. It was a great shock, as I never knew she had been ill, and she had been such a faithful servant of mine for thirty-two years. I was very fond of her, and she was much attached to me, and liked and respected by all. She left me in '92 to go and live with a delicate sister, who now survives her! In '94 I saw her at Coburg, and she came on a visit to Balmoral and then again for the last time for the Jubilee in '97, which she enjoyed so much.

It is another valuable link with the past gone. All fall around me, and I become more and more lonely. So many sad events have already occurred this year. It makes one tremble.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

10th March 1899.—Have heard from Lord Wolseley that he showed to Lord Lansdowne his letter which I sent you last night, so there is no reason why you should not now refer to it in discussion with S. of S.

C.-in-C. merely asks that Order in Council shall run: "C.-in-C. is vested with the general command and discipline of H.M. Military Forces." This involves very slight addition to the Order. I trust you will induce S. of S. to agree to this. V. R. I.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

10th March 1899.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully acknowledges your Majesty's letter and telegram with respect to the duties of the Commander-in-Chief. Lord Lansdowne appears to have conceded the substance of Lord Wolseley's wish, but to resist as to the embodiment of that concession in a change of the Order in Council.

Lord Salisbury would be very glad to see the matter arranged as your Majesty wishes. But it is quite possible that Lord Lansdowne will adhere to his view that the Order in Council ought not to be changed.

Lord Salisbury will do what he can to persuade him. But he does not think that it would be for your Majesty's service to change Government just now ; and it is probable that, if Lord Lansdowne resigned, the other Liberal Unionist Members of the Government would decline to remain.

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.*

CIMIEZ, 14th March 1899.—The Queen received Lord Salisbury's letter in answer to hers enclosing Lord Wolseley's just as she was leaving Windsor. Of course the Queen does not wish for a moment to bring on a crisis with Lord Lansdowne, but she must say she cannot believe that any Minister would think of resigning on such a trifling point as well as not wishing to agree to her wishes. . . . He has admitted to Lord Wolseley that he agrees with him in substance, and why won't he let a very few words be put in or added to the Order in Council which might, she fancies, even *not* be made generally public.

Lord Lansdowne seems so anxious for the well-being and proper working of the Army that she cannot believe that he would really stand out upon such a trifling point when he does agree to the real substance.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

CIMIEZ, 15th March 1899.—Affie came to my room at half-past ten. He was very upset and could scarcely speak. After a little time he alluded to the future, and seemed to wish and think young Arthur should finish his education in Germany and be brought up there. This is unfortunately the very reverse of what Arthur wishes, and had told me this afternoon. Affie said it would not be liked in Germany if the Hereditary Prince were brought up in another country, and that even he himself, who had been a great deal in Germany before he lived there, had found it very difficult ; also that his own position would be made almost untenable if the wishes of the people were not

complied with, and might lead to his being turned out altogether. I told Affie that Arthur was strongly opposed to giving up his son's English education; however, he would see both Arthur and Bertie to-morrow.

20th March.—I dictated a Memorandum for Sir Robert Collins¹ telling him about the state of affairs at Coburg and the possibility of the succession coming to Charlie. There has been a great deal of talk between all my children about this vexed question of the succession.

*Sir Arthur Bigge to Mr. Edward Hamilton.*²

[Copy.] *Private.*

CIMIEZ, 21st March 1899.

MY DEAR HAMILTON,—Can you help us in a matter in which the Queen is personally much interested? At H.M.'s somewhat urgent request the War Office recently recommended three or four Bandmasters for promotion.³ But so far they have only been appointed Second Lieutenants, and not as the Queen wished, commissioned officers with corresponding pay and pension.

This will involve a slight addition to the Royal Warrant. *Entre nous* the War Office do not altogether smile upon the proposal, and we are warned that the Treasury may prove to be a rock upon which it will be wrecked. The Queen, however, is anxious that the matter should be sent on to the Treasury. In the Diamond Jubilee Year she had wished to confer this mark of her appreciation and favour upon the only class in the Army who hitherto have been debarred from the commission rank, but difficulties were raised and the question dropped.

The extra expense involved will be merely nominal, as it is only proposed to give a few commissions to those Bandmasters who, by their musical abilities, length of service, or excellence of their bands, are considered most worthy of advancement. Yours very truly, ARTHUR BIGGE.

¹ Of the Duchess of Albany's Household.

² Of the Treasury.

³ See above, p. 342, and below, p. 390.

Mr. Edward Hamilton to Sir Arthur Bigge.

Private.

TREASURY CHAMBERS, 23rd March 1899.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—We have heard nothing as yet about the proposal for promotion of Bandmasters, and, as you will understand, we cannot do anything until we are moved by the Secretary of State. But if and when the proposal is made I will do my best to see that no obstacles are opposed here, though in days like these, when the constable is being outrun, any recommendations involving increase of expenditure are naturally viewed askance. . . . Yours sincerely,
ED. HAMILTON.

Mr. Cecil Rhodes to the Prince of Wales.¹

BURLINGTON HOTEL, [Undated, ? March 1899.]

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS,—I found that the King of the Belgians was not in want of money and the calls on him are not excessive. The Belgian State gives him 80,000 a year in aid of the administration of the Congo State, and he has floated many companies in Belgium for Congo development, in which he has a good many shares; in fact, there is quite a Congo Stock Exchange at Brussels.

The more serious matter was that under the Anglo-Belgian Treaty of '94 made by Lord Rosebery, we had given the King, (1) a strip of country along the Nile for his life; (2) the Bahr-el-Ghazal for so long as the Congo remained a Belgian Colony. The King told me practically that he would not let my telegraph come through until we had given him the Bahr-el-Ghazal. He claims that Lord Rosebery gave it to him without conditions, and that he was within his rights in letting portions to the French, and that now that we have settled with the French we must hand it over to him. I am sure the English people, after such a struggle with the French, are not going to have it handed over to the Belgians. I felt that there is likely to be a pretty squabble over the matter, and

¹ Presumably submitted by the Prince of Wales to the Queen.

that between the two my telegraph would go to the wall. I enclose you, Sir, the Anglo-Congo Treaty and map to explain the matter.

My only chance for getting my telegraph on at once was to get permission from the Emperor of Germany. I had heard unofficially that he would like to see me, so on my return from Egypt I went to Berlin, and was received very cordially, and made an agreement with the German Ministers to bring my telegraph through German East Africa ; it was most necessary, as I am now on their boundary, and as I could not come through the Congo I must have stopped. The Germans of course did not know of the difficulty with the King of the Belgians. However, it was the Emperor who influenced his Ministers and practically made the agreement with me. I feel sure he is most anxious to work with England, and I think he is fond of the English ; he must be so, for after all he is half an Englishman. I think he is very sensitive, for he spoke about the way the English papers had abused him. I heard in Berlin, on good authority, and I am sure, Sir, you will not mind my repeating it, that he thinks you do not like him, and that he is very anxious to gain your good opinion. I hope he is coming to Cowes, and I thought you would not mind my mentioning what I heard, and from a source which would not be pure gossip.

I think as our Ministers have settled African questions with Germany and we have agreed on the open door in China, we ought to try and work with Germany, and the Emperor is really German, at least, it appeared to me to be so when I was in Berlin, Ministers doing just as he desired and the Reichstag most docile. I am sure, Sir, you were very annoyed at his telegram, and as it was aimed at my so-called misconduct, you were really kindly in your feelings to myself ; that is the past, and it seems to me that in view of the complications in the world we must work with some nation, and Germany seems the best. I do not know whether these are your views, Sir, but I

hope you will pardon my writing so frankly everything that occurred. I am sure of this that, if you showed him good feeling when he came to England, it would immensely influence his mind. Your servant,
C. J. RHODES.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.
[Cypher Telegram.]

21st March (1899).—Humble duty. I have to-day come to an arrangement with the French Ambassador with respect to the boundary between French and English spheres of influence in Africa.

It keeps the French entirely out of Nile Valley, and restores management of Egyptian Province of Darfur.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

CIMIEZ, 23rd March 1899.—Affie came to luncheon, and remained with me some time afterwards. He talked of the family burial-place at Coburg, whither the remains of poor young Alfred will be brought. He explained to me all they intend arranging. Then saw Sir A. Bigge about the Coburg succession affairs. Drove with May and Thora. Had a good deal of conversation with the former, who is so wonderfully wise and sensible.

Lord Curzon to Queen Victoria.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, CALCUTTA, 23rd March 1899.—The Viceroy with his humble duty to your Majesty the Queen Empress has the honour to acknowledge the letter with which your Majesty favoured him from Windsor Castle on 3rd March. The Viceroy cannot fail to be extremely touched at the gracious kindness which induces your Majesty, who has so many pre-occupations as well as so vast a correspondence, to write to him with your own hand. It not only sets an example of what should be done, and can be done, in the highest places, that is probably very rare, if not unique, in history. But it also acts as a personal stimulus to the loyal service of the favoured recipient,

who endeavours to conform his own standard of public duty to the exalted pattern set by his Sovereign. . . .

Lord Kitchener to Queen Victoria.

HEADQUARTERS, EGYPTIAN ARMY, OMDURMAN,
7th March 1899.—Lord Kitchener presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and begs to express his grateful thanks for your Majesty's most gracious letter of the 17th February.

Lord Kitchener is much distressed that your Majesty should think that the destruction of the Mahdi's tomb and the disposal of the bones was improperly carried out. He is very sorry that anything he has done should have caused your Majesty a moment's uneasiness.

A few days after the battle I discussed with some native officers of the Soudanese troops, and spoke on the subject with some influential natives here; and they told me that, although no educated persons believed in the Mahdi being anything but an impostor who had attempted to change the Mohammedan religion, still the ignorant people of Kordofan and Darfur would continue to believe in him as long as the tomb remained. The Soudanese officers told me that even some of the soldiers in our ranks still believed in the Mahdi; and [they] recommended the destruction of the tomb, and that the bones should be thrown in the Nile, which would entirely dissipate any such belief. Nothing in the matter was done in a hurry; but four days after the battle, before I left for Fashoda, I gave the order for the destruction, thinking it was the safest and wisest course, and this was carried out by Soudanese soldiers during my absence. There was no coffin, and when the bones were found the soldiers seemed all astonished and exclaimed, "By God, this was not the Mahdi after all he told us." They had previously believed that the Mahdi had been translated bodily to heaven. When I returned from Fashoda the Mahdi's skull in a box was brought to me, and I did not know what to do with it. I had thought

of later sending it to the College of Surgeons, where I believe such things are kept ; it has now been buried in a Moslem cemetery.

Although in the first flush of victory there was no reason to fear any serious effects from Mahdist superstition, still I cannot help thinking that now, if I had acted differently, we might have serious cause to regret it. We are suffering here from a horrible epidemic of cerebral spinal meningitis amongst the Soudanese troops, and I have already lost eighty young black soldiers, who die in great agony, as the disease attacks the brain. I have moved the troops out into camp, and done all I can to prevent its spread ; but doctors seem to know very little about it, and it is, I am sorry to say, increasing, and has now broken out at Khartoum as well as here. I am exceedingly fond of my black troops ; but I fully know how hot-headed they are and how quickly an idea may make them act rashly. If they got it into their heads that the Mahdi was punishing them for their action with us, the result might be very disastrous before I could stop it. They are behaving as they always do—splendidly ; but I am glad the temptation and the possibility of an emissary from the Khalifa starting such an idea amongst them is altogether removed.

The visit of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught has had an excellent effect throughout the Soudan. The troops highly appreciated the Duke's special orders to them after the review, and it has been a source of pleasure to me that the Duchess did not suffer from over-fatigue, and approved of the arrangements made for their Royal Highnesses' comfort.

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to Lord Kitchener.*

CIMIEZ, 24th March 1899.—The Queen Empress thanks the Sirdar sincerely for his letter of the 7th inst. received this morning.

She never believed that the Sirdar had given the order for the remains of the Mahdi to be destroyed.

That the tomb was destroyed she quite understands was absolutely necessary. But she felt—[as to] the destruction of the poor body of a man who, whether he was very bad and cruel, after all was a *man* of a certain *importance*—that it savours, in the Queen's opinion, too much of the Middle Ages not to allow his remains to be buried in private in some spot where it would not be considered as of any importance politically or an object of superstition. The graves of our people have been respected, and those of our foes should, in her opinion, also be.

However, now she is quite satisfied, as the skull has been buried. The Queen is grieved to hear of so much sickness of so distressing a nature among the Soudanese, which is very distressing and rather alarming. Is there a possibility of poison accidentally or intentionally?

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught returned delighted with their expedition to Omdurman, Khartoum, and Atbara, both looking remarkably well. But they had a dreadful passage coming to Villefranche, and even worse, if possible, when they left from there on the night of the 20th for Leghorn, and were obliged to land at Genoa.

The Queen hopes the Sirdar is well and not too much worked.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to the Marquis of Salisbury.
[Copy.] 23rd March 1899.

DEAR LORD SALISBURY,—You will recollect that I expressed to you my belief that in all really important discipline cases the C.-in-C. had been fully consulted.

In order to make sure that I had not misled you, I have selected the most troublesome discipline cases with which we have had to deal, and verified my statement in regard to each of them. The schedule which I enclose with this letter will show you that I was correct. There are nine of them, and in no single case was there a failure to ascertain the C.-in-C.'s views.

Will you also kindly look at p. 7 of the enclosed

Memo. ? You will see that in our "Details of Office Procedure" it is expressly laid down that "*all important questions* will be referred to the C.-in-C. before submission to the S. of S."

So far as I am aware, this rule has been observed, and I should certainly support Lord Wolseley if he were able to show that the interpretation placed upon the word "important" had not been sufficiently strict.
. . . LANSDOWNE.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

CIMIEZ, 26th March 1899.—Directly after luncheon saw Lord Salisbury, who has just arrived at Beaulieu. We talked of many things, and rejoiced at the success of the arrangement with the French, which gives us entire possession of the valley of the Nile. He also thought that we should come to a satisfactory arrangement with Russia about the Chinese railways. He hoped the Budget had been finally settled, and without increasing the Income Tax, which would have been most unpopular. I talked about the difficulties of the Coburg succession.

He then said he had had a long conversation with Lord Lansdowne. The latter entirely agrees with me, but was against altering the Order in Council, as it contained my wishes, a record of which ought to be kept. But that there had been several instances lately in which the C.-in-C. had been consulted, to which I replied that he had not been consulted with regard to the discipline of the Army. Also the Adjutant-General interfered and usurped too much power and authority. I knew this from Lord Wolseley himself. I said further that if Lord Lansdowne was so positive that the C.-in-C. had all the power which was imperative for him to have, and which I was so strong about, then I wished he would write it to me and put it on record. I repeated that the C.-in-C. was responsible to me and not to the Secretary of State, though they consulted together regarding important appointments. Equally the Secretary of State was responsible to me,

and that the Adjutant-General was under the C.-in-C. and responsible to him and me. Lord Salisbury said it would be better for him to write my wishes to Lord Lansdowne, for that would come as a command and be binding. To this I agreed.

We also talked of the C.-in-C. and of Lord Wolseley not being an entire success. I felt the Army would prefer a Prince. Lord Salisbury said the feeling had all come round to that, and that he had told Lord Lansdowne Arthur would have the next appointment after Lord Wolseley.

8th April.—After dinner I received the following telegram from Sir Condie Stephen: "Duke of Connaught has sent a telegram to Saxe-Coburg Minister stating that he is now heir presumptive, and that as such both he and his house are prepared to fulfil their duties towards the Duchies. Duke and Duchess with Prince Arthur will visit the Duke of Coburg on their way to England, but questions as to education of Prince and whether H.R.H. is to enter the German Army still remain to be settled. Both Duke and Duchess seem willing to consent to Prince's going to a German University later on." This is a relief, but I see many troubles yet ahead.

9th April.—Saw Lord Salisbury. The Coburg succession and its difficulties were gone into very fully.¹ The feeling in the Duchies must be respected, and therefore Arthur said he is the heir, more especially as there was great agitation and danger of William interfering. This he has not the slightest right to do, but he considers he ought to have been consulted, which is not the case, as by law he has nothing whatever to do with the succession.

27th April.—At a quarter to four started with Lenchen, Beatrice, Thora, Leopold, and the two ladies following, the gentlemen and Sir E. Monson having pre-

¹ Writing to the Queen on the 26th, Lord Salisbury "earnestly" advised that the Duke of Connaught "should take no course without careful consideration. The matter should be put aside till after your Majesty comes back; and any premature declaration is undesirable."

ceded us, for the new bridge at the end of the Boulevard Carabacel, which I was asked to open. The bridge was beautifully decorated with flags and garlands. The Maire and his Adjunct met us on arrival, the band playing *God Save the Queen*, and he addressed a few words to me, thanking me for the honour I had conferred upon the town, also presenting a most enormous and lovely bouquet. I answered in flattering words, "Je suis bien touchée que vous m'avez demandé d'inaugurer votre nouveau pont, et je fais des vœux bien sincères pour la prospérité de la ville de Nice et de ses environs." Flowers were given to the Princesses. We then drove over the bridge, the band playing the *Marseillaise*. There were great crowds, who were all most enthusiastic.

1st May.—Drove to Beaulieu. Had our tea at St. Jean, where Lenchen and Beatrice joined us. Alas! my last charming drive in this paradise of nature, which I grieve to leave, as I get more attached to it every year. I shall mind returning to the sunless north, but I am so grateful for all I have enjoyed here.¹

Colonel Grierson to Sir Frank Lascelles.

[*Copy.*] *Secret.*

BERLIN, 3rd May 1899.

SIR,—At a military inspection on the 1st May, his Majesty the Emperor called me up and told me that, while at the Wartburg, he had been visited by their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Coburg and of Connaught, and had had a conversation with the latter as to the succession to the throne of Coburg-Gotha.

His Majesty's account of this conversation in no way differed from that which has reached your Excellency from other sources, save that he made no mention to me of his having uttered any threat to bring in a Bill to prevent the succession of foreign princes to German thrones. He merely said that he had pointed out that German feeling would demand

¹ This was the Queen's last visit to the French Riviera.

that the heir-apparent to the throne of Coburg should leave the British and enter the German Army, should have his principal residence in Germany, and should have his son educated in that country. The same opinion had, he said, been expressed to his Royal Highness by the King of Saxony. If, he said, the Duke of Connaught decided to remain a British Prince and abrogate his claims in favour of Prince Arthur or of the Duke of Albany, no one in Germany could be offended by such a decision, and everyone would find it quite natural; but it was impossible that he could pose as a German Prince and still hold a command in the British Army. His Majesty expressly told me to communicate his opinions to your Excellency, and I, of course, made no mention of the fact that you were *already in possession of them*.

After some further conversation on indifferent subjects, his Majesty began to speak about British policy, which he declared to be quite incomprehensible to him. He said that for years he had been the one true friend to Great Britain on the continent of Europe, and had done everything to help her policy and assist her, and that he had received nothing in return but ingratitude, culminating in our behaviour in the Samoan affair, which, he said, had undone all the good he had effected in the way of cultivating friendly relations between the two countries. Some day, when it was too late, we should regret it. He had particularly desired to be in England on her Majesty's birthday and present all his children to the Queen, but that was now impossible. His consistent enemy throughout had been Lord Salisbury, and, while the latter remained Prime Minister, it would be impossible for him to come to England. Formerly it was the people of Great Britain who kept back the Government from war, now it was the Government which was holding back the people. The City and Mr. Chamberlain were all for war. They had failed to get war with France, and now they wanted war with Germany, which would be an easier thing for them, as

she had fewer ships than France. From the above, your Excellency will not fail to see that his Majesty was talking somewhat at random, for, by his own statement, his "enemy" Lord Salisbury was keeping back the people from making war on Germany! He appeared also to separate Mr. Chamberlain's action from that of the Government, but your Excellency is well aware what a strong prejudice the Emperor cherishes against that gentleman.

One thing, however, said his Majesty, he was resolved to hold to and carry through, and that was his arrangement with Mr. Rhodes as to African affairs. The latter was, he declared, "furious" at the turn affairs in general had taken, and from these remarks I gathered, though he did not say so, that he was in direct communication with Mr. Rhodes.

His Majesty's tone throughout this conversation was calm and dispassionate, and he greeted and dismissed me in the most friendly manner. I have, etc., J. M. GRIERSON, Lt.-Col. and Military Attaché.¹

¹ Sir Frank Lascelles forwarded this secret report by Colonel Grierson in a private letter to Lord Salisbury, who submitted it to the Queen. In his covering letter Sir Frank wrote: "I suspect that a great deal of his Majesty's ill-humour is due to the fact that he was not allowed to carry out his cherished scheme of presenting his younger children to the Queen on the occasion of her eightieth birthday. He was bitterly disappointed at being told he was not to go to England for the birthday. . . . I talked to Bülow yesterday about the Emperor's language to Grierson, and evidently embarrassed him a good deal by doing so. . . . He said that it was not for him to criticise in any way the language of his sovereign, but I, who knew the Emperor so well, must know that his Majesty's impetuosity sometimes led to exaggeration of expression. He himself was convinced of the necessity for Germany of good relations with England, and he could assure me that this policy had the complete support and approval of the Emperor. . . . His Majesty was in fact more than half an Englishman, and was extraordinarily sensitive to anything which he could regard as a slight either from the Royal Family or from her Majesty's Government. I said that I had noticed that the Emperor seemed more apt to take offence where none certainly was intended, during the time of the Queen's annual visits to the South of France, and it was to be hoped that now that her Majesty had returned to England, the Emperor would have become less sensitive. I had heard indirectly that the Prince of Wales, in passing through Paris, had said that the Emperor was expected at Cowes this year. Bülow replied that at present his Majesty had no intention of visiting England this year. If the Samoan question were satisfactorily settled,

[*Télégramme.*] *President Loubet to Queen Victoria.*

PARIS ELYSÉE, 5 *Mai* 1899.—Il m'est particulièrement agréable d'apprendre que votre Majesté veut bien se montrer satisfaite de son séjour en France. Elle peut être assurée qu'on y sera toujours heureux de lui réserver le même accueil. EMILE LOUBET.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 6th *May* 1899.—Arthur and Louischen with their two girls arrived and had tea with us. Had a long talk about the most vexed and difficult question of Coburg. William has been tiresome and has interfered. The real difficulty is young Arthur, and the feeling in Germany that they do not wish to have anyone who is not brought up there. Arthur himself is, of course, out of the question, as he would not give up his career here, and I certainly would not allow it. Young Arthur cannot renounce his claims till he is twenty-one, which he then is sure to do. In the meantime it is quite impossible to take him away from his English education for an improbable eventuality. Saw Lord Salisbury before dinner. Talked also to him a great deal about Coburg and William's threats, which I refrain from entering into.

7th *May*.—Bertie came to see me and remained some time, staying for luncheon, to which young Arthur and Charlie also came. Afterwards Lenchen brought Professor Pagenstecher, the famous German oculist, who is staying at Cumberland Lodge. He said he found my eyes no worse, in fact rather better, which is a great encouragement. I again saw Lord Salisbury. Went over much the same ground as yesterday. He was most kind and concerned about all my worries.

it might be possible that his Majesty might alter his decision. . . . It would give greater satisfaction to German public opinion, if, when the time came when the Emperor could again go to England, the Queen could receive his Majesty at Windsor rather than at Cowes."

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Queen Victoria.

WAR OFFICE, 8th May 1899.—Lord Lansdowne presents his humble duty to the Queen, and he has the honour to submit to your Majesty a memorandum which he has prepared upon the position of the Commander-in-Chief under your Majesty's Orders in Council of 1895 and 1899.

He trusts that the memorandum may reassure your Majesty, and that it will show that he has endeavoured to carry out loyally the arrangements sanctioned by your Majesty in these Orders.

A copy of the memorandum will remain in the possession of the Permanent Under-Secretary for the information and guidance of Lord Lansdowne's successor and of all concerned.

*Sir Edmund Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.*¹

PARIS, 9th May 1899.

MY LORD,—Your Lordship's presence in the South of France during a considerable portion of the period spent by the Queen at Cimiez will have enabled you to judge of the warmth and enthusiasm of the reception locally given to her Majesty; the external demonstrations of which have been, I think, more marked than ever before.

But there is no doubt also that the annual visit of the Queen to the Riviera has come to be regarded in France as an outward and visible sign of the friendly sentiments entertained by her Majesty for the French people; and upon the last occasion, following as it did upon a season of somewhat strained relations between the two Governments, it has been hailed with peculiar pleasure throughout the country by a population which at heart has no other desire than to live in peace and amity with a great and powerful neighbour.

It is, moreover, the simplest truism to say that, whatever may be the condition of the official relations

¹ Submitted by Lord Salisbury to the Queen.

between the two Governments, the veneration and respect entertained by Frenchmen towards the Queen of England are never affected or prejudiced thereby.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient humble servant, EDMUND MONSON.

Sir Arthur Bigge to Queen Victoria.

10th May 1899.—This is the Petition to your Majesty from the Transvaal Uitlanders. It bears 21,684 signatures, which have *not* been sent, as they would make the Petition so bulky. It certainly is a powerful indictment against the Boer Government. Promises made after the Jamieson Raid have never been fulfilled: there is no liberty of the Press; British subjects can be expelled at the will of the President; the Uitlanders, who are more than twenty times more numerous than the Boers [? in Johannesburg], are overtaxed, and have practically no voice in municipal government; they are not allowed to meet together, or even to present petitions; the police are entirely composed of Boers, and behave in the most arbitrary and indeed oppressive manner, and are responsible for the murder of one British subject. . . .

[*Same day.*]—This despatch is a reply to the Uitlanders' Petition to your Majesty. It fully recapitulates their grievances, and points out how, if not in the letter in the spirit, the Convention of 1884 has been disregarded.

It proposes that Sir A. Milner and President Kruger should meet and discuss the situation in a conciliatory spirit in hopes of coming to a just agreement as to the demands of the Uitlanders.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 12th May 1899.—Went out with Arthur, who talked much about the Coburg succession. He had seen Sir Condie Stephen, and found him very reasonable. Arthur and Louischen

left after luncheon. I then saw Sir Condie Stephen, who much regretted the decision Arthur has come to, to renounce for his son, before he comes of age, though he quite understands the difficulties which necessitated this step. He laid great stress on a very conciliatory tone being adopted towards poor Affie, who had been so anxious for young Arthur to go to Coburg; also that William, who has really nothing to do with it, should be informed, before anything is made known, so as to ensure his support in any technical difficulties that may arise.

[Copy.] *Memorandum by Queen Victoria.*

WINDSOR CASTLE, 15th May 1899.—On the 24th August 1895, Lord Lansdowne, replying to the Queen, wrote :

“ I concur with her Majesty in believing that the new arrangements should not be made too rigid at first, and I think it highly probable that parts of the machine may require readjustment after we have had a little experience of its working.”

On this understanding, and with nearly four years' experience of the working of the new system, the Queen was strongly of opinion that so far as concerned the discipline of the Army, the Order in Council of 1895 needed reconsideration.

Previous to 1895, although the Adjutant-General was “ responsible for the discipline of the Army,” he was primarily responsible to the Commander-in-Chief, so that the discipline was practically vested in the latter, and all orders issued or decisions arrived at upon questions of discipline were in his name and under his authority. But by the Order in Council of 1895, the Commander-in-Chief was relieved of this responsibility, with the result that now it rests upon the judgment of the Adjutant-General to decide to what extent the Commander-in-Chief is informed or consulted respecting discipline, which is not a “ *department* ” but the essential principle of the vitality of the Army. For although by the Order in Council the

Commander-in-Chief is "the principal adviser of the Secretary of State"; "exercises general command" and is "charged with general supervision of the military departments of the W.O.," the *Adjutant-General* "is charged with the *discipline of the Army*," and "will advise the Secretary of State on all questions connected with the duties of his Department."

The unfortunate results of this attempt to eliminate the question of discipline from that of "general command," and the certainty of its failure in time of war have been seriously represented to the Queen by the Commander-in-Chief. With a view of remedying this defect Lord Wolseley suggested an alteration in the Order in Council by which the Commander-in-Chief would be "vested with the general command and *discipline* of the military forces."

The Queen, being deeply impressed with the anomalous situation which has been thus created, and fully appreciating the grave importance of the above evidence of her Commander-in-Chief, whom she recognises as the responsible executive chief of the Army, felt constrained to appeal to the Prime Minister to rectify, if possible, what appeared to her Majesty an important defect in Army administration.

Accordingly, on 4th March the Queen urged that the Order in Council should be amended so as to make it perfectly clear that the responsibility for the discipline of the Army is absolutely in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief and not in those of the Adjutant-General. In reply, Lord Salisbury, on the 5th of March, pointed out that Lord Lansdowne had a very strong objection to any such alteration: he thought the Order in Council was misunderstood, and that Lord Lansdowne was disposed to assent to drawing up some declaration explaining more clearly its real meaning. Further explanations and discussions took place, followed by Lord Lansdowne's memorandum of the 8th of May.

But the Queen has been unable to modify her views upon this important subject. Her Majesty will, how-

ever, no longer press these, but desires that this memorandum may be officially recorded at the War Office.¹

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 18th May 1899.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully acknowledges the two letters written to him by your Majesty, together with the enclosures, which he returns.

He had already had communication with Lord George upon this matter of Holkar²: he is very glad that it has been settled without resort to any strong measures. He will speak to Lord George and ask him to impress due circumspection and moderation upon the Viceroy in dealing with such matters. It is a subject of the greatest delicacy and difficulty. On our side it is very important not to interfere with the freedom of the Princes in governing their own dominions. On the other hand, they are sometimes unfit to exercise the autocratic power they possess; and are guilty of great cruelty and serious crime. The last notable instance was that of the Gaekwar, whom Lord Northbrook found it necessary to depose in 1875. Lord Salisbury did not form a high opinion of Holkar when he was here in 1887.

Nothing could have been more shocking than Lord Strafford's sudden death³; and poor Lady Strafford!

Lord Salisbury trusts that yesterday's ceremony,⁴ which was very successful and impressive, has not seriously fatigued your Majesty.

¹ This memorandum was apparently first submitted to Lord Salisbury, who was attacked by influenza, and unable for several days to consider it. See below, pp. 367 and 375.

² See below, p. 386.

³ He fell off a railway platform in front of an express train and was killed. The Queen wrote in her Journal on 17th May:

"I was greatly shocked and grieved. He had been so long with me, as he originally entered my service sixty years ago as page. He resigned when he became sixteen, and in later years entered my service, first as Groom and then as Equerry. He was so devoted to me, and never happier than when he was in waiting."

⁴ The Queen laid the foundation-stone of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Archbishop Temple to Queen Victoria.

LAMBETH PALACE, 18th May 1899.—The Archbishop of Canterbury presents his duty to the Queen and begs leave to bring to her Majesty's notice the mischief that is likely to follow if the leading daily papers are induced by the stress of competition with one another to include a Sunday issue in their regular publications.¹ It is not possible to doubt that it will in the end greatly add to Sunday labour. The writing and printing of Sunday newspapers may no doubt be so arranged as to throw the additional labour on the Saturday. But the distributors, whether shop men or paper boys, will certainly have to do their work on Sunday, and the number of these is very considerable.

It is thought that if your Majesty could allow it to be understood that it would give your Majesty pleasure to hear that some way had been found to avoid causing this serious inroad on the day of rest, the proposal would be modified or abandoned.

Should your Majesty desire to see the Archbishop on the subject, that he might answer any question or give any further information, the Archbishop will of course be ready to wait on your Majesty for that purpose.

The Archbishop is your Majesty's most faithful and devoted servant.

Bishop Davidson to Queen Victoria.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 20th May 1899.

MADAM,—I return herewith to your Majesty with my humble duty the letter from the Archbishop which your Majesty has been good enough to let me read. In the short conversation your Majesty was good enough to allow me last night I perhaps failed to make clear the point on which your Majesty asked my opinion. There is, I think, a marked difference between the expression by your Majesty of a *wish* that

¹ This was done by the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Daily Mail*, but public opinion was so strong against seven-day journalism that the practice was soon abandoned.

the seven-day newspaper should be discontinued, and, on the other hand, the allowing it to be stated through some suitable channel that if the seven-day publication were, by the proprietors' action, to have ceased, your Majesty would rejoice to know that a step had been taken so markedly in accord with the best public opinion.

I believe it to be true that the promoters of the new seven-day plan would themselves not be sorry to have the way made easy for withdrawal.

With apologies to your Majesty for this further intrusion upon a very difficult but most important matter, I have the honour to be, your Majesty's obedient humble servant, RANDALL WINTON.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

21st May 1899.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty much regrets that he is unable to obey your Majesty's commands to-morrow; but he has found by experience that, if he travels with a bad cough, it brings on influenza, which may lay him up for some time. Lady Salisbury also has a very bad cough. He has therefore trusted to your Majesty's kindness to excuse him.

He respectfully sends back the letters of the Archbishop and the Bishop of Winchester, with a memorandum expressing the counsel which he should be disposed to give to your Majesty on this matter.

Memorandum by the Marquis of Salisbury.

[21st May 1899.].—These letters¹ advise your Majesty to let it be known that you wish the Sunday issue of leading newspapers to be abandoned.

I wish to pay full homage to the excellent motives which have induced these Prelates to approach your Majesty on the question. But it must be remembered that it is a question of controversy. The whole question of Sabbath observance, of which this forms

¹ The letters of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Winchester, printed above.

a part, greatly divides your Majesty's subjects. The upper class and the lower class are in the main averse to a rigid observance of the Sunday : the middle class support it. There can be no doubt that during the last half-century the rigid party have become much smaller. Thirty years ago the Bishops made a very earnest effort to prevent Sunday trains, especially excursion trains. But they failed. The movement was too strong for them ; and Sunday excursion trains are now very common. About forty years ago there was a strong attempt made to prevent the sale of articles of food on Sunday morning. Lord Robert Grosvenor passed a Bill through the House of Commons with this object. But the lower classes were so angry that they assembled in Hyde Park and pelted all the carriages and horsemen that were in the park on Sunday afternoon. The Bill had to be withdrawn.

I have cited these two cases to show that there are two strong currents of opinion ; and the action which your Majesty is urged to pursue amounts to taking sides in a popular dispute. This is directly contrary to your Majesty's usual practice ; and it would be attended with many inconveniences.

Sunday newspapers exist in this country already, and have a vast circulation. Whatever evil is supposed to attach to the new Sunday issues must attach to those which exist now, and have existed for a long time. People have tried to draw a distinction between Sunday newspapers having the same name as weekday newspapers, and those which have a special name of their own. But this distinction is too absurd to be maintained. If it is known that your Majesty's vast social influence is being exerted against Sunday newspapers of any sort, it will be taken as a pronouncement against them altogether. By their vast numbers they are evidently a luxury valued by the lower classes. If these classes learn that high social influences are directed against them, they may ask, as they did in the time of Lord Robert Grosvenor, whether the practice of the upper classes generally is

such as would justify them in taking a rigid line upon this subject.

If such a controversy were to arise, it would not be very delicately conducted ; and I should dread to see your Majesty's name mixed up with it. Perhaps so unfortunate a contingency is not very probable, but it is sufficiently possible to make it more expedient to leave the matter alone, as it does not fall within the ordinary range of your Majesty's duties.

Sir Arthur Bigge to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[Copy.]

WINDSOR CASTLE, 22nd May 1899.

MY DEAR LORD SALISBURY,—The Queen wishes me to write to you respecting your memorandum on the letters of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Winchester with regard to the question of seven-day newspapers.

Her Majesty is anxious to point out that the objections on the part of herself and these two Prelates are not based upon Sabbatarian considerations ; but because a newspaper with a daily issue for seven days in the week must entail both undue work and loss of relaxation upon the whole of its staff and also upon those employed in its distribution.

As I think you know, her Majesty's views are entirely opposed to those held by the "rigid" school, and neither her Majesty nor the Bishop of Winchester, with the latter of whom I have discussed the matter, wish to do away with Sunday newspapers as they now exist. But the Queen thought that without expressing any "*wish*" on the subject, a communication might be made to the effect that : " Her Majesty was glad to hear that the proposed extension from a six to seven days' issue of certain London newspapers had been abandoned, as her Majesty felt that this decision on the part of the respective proprietors was in consonance with the majority of public opinion."

If, however, you still think the Queen had better hold aloof from the question, I feel sure her Majesty will abide by your counsel. Yours, ARTHUR BIGGE.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

HATFIELD, 23rd May 1899.

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—I am still laid up with my cold, and am therefore obliged to write to you by another hand. I have just received your letter of yesterday with reference to seven-day newspapers.

The point on which her Majesty relies, that the Sunday newspaper would involve seven days' work or an increase of work for the staff of the weekday newspaper, is so strongly denied by those interested in the matter, that I think it would not be wise for her Majesty to become involved in any degree in this controversy.

I am informed on good authority that the staff of the newspaper in question¹ categorically deny that their labour has increased, and state that, by the arrangements made, their work has been diminished rather than increased.

The amount of work created by an additional Sunday paper for the newsvendors and so forth, if they are already open on Sunday for the sale of other papers, is so slight as not to be worth her Majesty's intervention.

Her Majesty should remember that, though those who are approaching her on this subject are men of moderate ideas, there is a huge fanatical body behind them, who would take matters into their own hands if they could say that the Queen was supporting them; I think therefore that in a question upon which people are so susceptible and so unreasonable, the Queen would do wisely in adhering to her usual rule not to interfere. Yours very truly, SALISBURY.

[Telegram.] *Sir Alfred Milner to Mr. Chamberlain.*

23rd May 1899.—I have received following from her Majesty's Ministers of Colony of the Cape of Good Hope. Speaking on behalf of all her subjects in that Colony without distinction of party, creed, race, or

¹ The *Daily Telegraph*.

colour, [they] unite with unnumbered millions throughout her Majesty's Empire in every land in an utterance of devout thanksgiving upon the ever memorable occasion when her Gracious Majesty attains the grand tale of eighty noble years, and beg to add a humble expression of earnest hope that Providence may long bless her Empire, and the world, by her benign and illustrious reign.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 24th May 1899.—On this eventful day, when I have become eighty years old, I must express one word of deep gratitude to God for having preserved me so long to my dear children, all my friends, and the whole nation, which has come forward with the greatest affection and loyalty; I am deeply touched. May God still mercifully preserve me to work for the good of my country!

Beatrice came in early with a beautifully sweet nosegay, and then fetched darling little Elisabeth to wish me many happy returns of the day. I got up almost directly afterwards and dressed, then went into the Audience-room, where all my beautiful presents were arranged. All my children, including dear Vicky, joined in giving me three very handsome silver candelabras for the Durbar-room at Osborne. Bertie's children, including Georgie and May, gave me two large silver jugs and fruit bowls, also for the Durbar-room. George C. gave me a beautiful miniature of George III set in diamonds, which had belonged to one of his aunts. I also received presents from the different members of my Household, and personal friends, including a very interesting miniature of Prince Charles Edward from Lord Rosebery, and a box from Mr. Brett,¹ made out of one of the original timbers in the roof of Westminster Hall, of the time of William Rufus 1099.

¹ Then Secretary of the Office of Works; afterwards the 2nd Viscount Esher, and joint Editor of *The Letters of Queen Victoria*, First Series.

During breakfast, which we took all together in the Oak-room, the Eton and Windsor Madrigal Society, the Windsor Choral Society, and the choirs of St. George's and Eton Chapel brought me a Serenade. The Eton volunteers and boys were present, and cheered loudly. I gave souvenirs to all my children, and also to my ladies and gentlemen and personal servants. In the Corridor I received in succession: a bouquet, in the shape of a harp, from Lady Edward Churchill, representing the Madrigal Society; a bouquet from the officers of the 1st Life Guards presented by Colonel Miles, and one of eighty roses tied with the regimental colours, presented by Colonel Inigo Jones on behalf of the officers of the Scots Guards. Baron Reischach brought me lovely flowers from dear Vicky. After this I received the Mayor of Windsor, whom I knighted, Sir Walter Parratt, the Provost of Eton, Dr. Warre, and Mr. Arthur Benson.¹ I then went to the window in the Oak-room to see the Eton boys march away.

Went out at twelve in my pony chair with Beatrice and Affie, and went below the terrace facing the big lawn and saw the Scots Guards, who had previously fired a *Feu de Joie*, march past. Arthur marched at their head, as Colonel-in-Chief. I then planted a tree, most of the family being there, and took a turn with Beatrice and some of the others.

Quite overpowered with letters and, above all, telegrams, of which between two and three thousand have been received, many more than at the Jubilee. Bertie, Alix, and Victoria arrived shortly before two and came at once to see me. George C., Louise, and Macduff also came to luncheon, as well as the family in the house. The band of the Scots Guards played during luncheon. I afterwards received the Windsor Warrant Holders, who presented me with a beautiful basket of flowers. I have received many from

¹ Son of Archbishop Benson, and joint Editor of *The Letters of Queen Victoria*, First Series; afterwards Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge.

various kind people, including Lady Rothschild. Soon after this, Georgie and May came with their two little boys, who gave me a bouquet.

Drove out about five, with Alix and Beatrice, down the hill, which was densely crowded, through a beautiful arch covered with flowers. The enthusiasm of the people was tremendous and most touching. The town was beautifully decorated. Drove across the Long Walk straight to the Mausoleum, where I got out and placed one of my nosegays at the foot of the dear tomb. How much my dear Albert would have rejoiced to see all these marks of love and loyalty! Back again through the town and through the arch. Had tea on coming home. A family dinner, *viz.* Bertie, Alix and Victoria, Ernie and Ducky,¹ Affie, Arthur and Louischen, Lenchen and Christian and their three children, Louise and Lorne, Georgie and May, and Helen.² The other younger members of the family joined us after dinner. I wore one of my Jubilee dresses, embroidered with silver, and the diamond chain given me by my children.

A little after nine we all went to the Waterloo Gallery, which was arranged as a theatre, and had the first, third, and last acts of Wagner's *Lohengrin* performed. The caste was as follows: Jean de Reszke (*Lohengrin*), Edouard de Reszke (*Heinrich der Vogler*), Mr. Bispham (*Telramund*), Mme Nordica (*Elsa*), Ortrud, who had very little to do, being represented by Frau Schuman Heinck. I was simply enchanted. It is the most glorious composition, so poetic, so dramatic, and one might almost say, religious in feeling and full of sadness, pathos, and tenderness. The singing of the two brothers was beyond praise. Jean looked so handsome in his white attire, armour, and helmet, and the electric light was turned strong upon him, so that he seemed surrounded by a halo. The whole opera produced a great impression on me. Edouard de Reszke was magnificent as *Heinrich der*

¹ The Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Hesse.

² The Duchess of Albany.

Vogler. Bertie said he had never heard a better performance. It was a fine ending to this memorable day.

The Earl of Rosebery to Queen Victoria.

DURDANS, 27th May 1899.

MADAM,—I have the honour to acknowledge with my humble duty the gracious letter which I have just received from your Majesty.

I cannot express how touched and gratified I am by the fact of your Majesty's finding time to write to me at a moment so crowded and occupied, and to make yourself acquainted with the very inadequate words that I uttered in proposing your Majesty's health at the dinner of last Wednesday.

It would have taken me much longer than the time limit to which I was restricted to express to your Majesty the debt of gratitude and affection which we all owe to your Majesty. That your Majesty has preserved and established the throne, threatened by so much, and has extended and cemented the Empire, and has established a personal sovereignty over the sympathies and intelligence of the human race is to express that debt very feebly. The emotion with which the people say, "The Queen, God bless her," says much more than this, and is the truest tribute to your Majesty, though one that your Majesty can never yourself hear.

I am emboldened by your Majesty's constant goodness to ask a great favour. Some years ago I purchased a locket surmounted by the British crown, which I have always kept in order to put in it some relic of your Majesty. If your Majesty would deign to send me a tiny lock of your hair to put in it, I should be more than grateful. I should not have dared to ask for such a thing had not your Majesty granted this favour to my second daughter. But if I am asking too much, or what it is presumptuous for me to ask, I would beg your Majesty to pardon me, and forget my petition in silence. In any case, I am always your Majesty's devoted servant and subject, ROSEBERY.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 29th May 1899.

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—I am sorry that a recurrence of this tiresome influenza has prevented me from giving an earlier attention to her Majesty's commands.

I have no objection whatever to make to her Majesty's intention of sending the proposed memorandum¹ to Lord Lansdowne. I have failed in my efforts to impress either upon H.M. or upon Lord Lansdowne that their difference of view turns rather upon questions of wording than of essence, and that the difference has little substantial existence. I am afraid I should not pursue the question further to any advantage. Yours very truly, SALISBURY.

The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.

CASSEL, 27th May 1899.

DEAREST GRANDMAMA,—Your kind letter of the 18th of this month arrived on the 20th. The news concerning the rumours said to be circulating in Germany which gave you offence astonished me to the utmost, as I never heard anything of them. I immediately conferred with my Minister for Foreign Affairs, and had the whole of the German newspaper articles investigated which had appeared since my return from the Mediterranean; and also caused most searching enquiries to be made in the Berlin society as well as in the circles of the Southern Courts. The result of all these investigations was that no such rumours have circulated anywhere that people here were astonished at you not having invited me to Cowes this year, and that no such articles have been written in the German papers or even hinted at the question. I therefore am inclined to suppose that your informant

¹ See above, p. 363. Lord Lansdowne, in acknowledging on 5th June receipt of the Queen's memorandum, states that "he will not fail, in accordance with your Majesty's commands, to place your Majesty's memorandum on record in the War Office. It appears to him, if he may be allowed to say so, to state the opinions which your Majesty has throughout held upon this difficult question with great force and

must have made some extraordinary mistake, or that he is not quite *au fait* with what is happening in Germany. Consequently, I am most happy to be able to allay your fears as to the possibility of misunderstandings arising between the two countries out of these utterly unfounded rumours.

But, on the other hand, I think it my duty to point out that public feeling over here has been very much agitated and stirred to its depths by the most unhappy way in which Lord Salisbury has treated Germany in the Samoan business. After we had formed the South African agreement, which I settled very much against the will of our Colonial circles, the people in Germany thought that a new base had been laid for mutual understanding and goodwill in foreign and colonial questions. Then came our military demonstrations on the Waterloo Place in Hanover for the victors of Omdurman, which was a sign of the warm interest taken by our army in the deeds of their British brothers-in-arms. My visit to Malta, as alas ! I could not extend my journey to Egypt, was a sign of affectionate interest in your Fleet and your Flag, of which I am so proud to be an Admiral. And last, not least, with an utter disregard for public opinion, which was very sore about this, and in the teeth of a most violent opposition from all ranks of society in Germany, I received Mr. Cecil Rhodes—only showing thereby that I thought it my duty to do all in my power to help your Government in the work of peace and goodwill for the benefit of my country.

As a *rendu* for all this Lord Salisbury has treated Germany in the Samoan question in a way which was utterly at variance with the manners which regulate the relations between great Powers according to European rules of civility. He not only left my Government for months without an answer to its proposals, dating from autumn last year, but he even refrained from expressing his or the Government's regret after the first acts of violence by Commander Sturdee and the other ships had occurred at Samoa.

A fact the more unintelligible, as the President of the U.S.A. immediately sent word to say how sorry he was such acts had happened on the part of American officers and men. On the contrary, the British ships went on for days and weeks bombarding so-called "positions" of so-called "rebels," though no one knows against whom they "rebelled," and thereby burning and destroying plantations and houses belonging to my subjects, with a loss of hundreds of thousands of marks, without even so much as an excuse having been made, and that on an island which by three-fourths is in German hands.

This way of treating Germany's feelings and interests has come upon the people like an electric shock, and has evoked the impression that Lord Salisbury cares for us no more than for Portugal, Chile, or the Patagonians, and out of this impression the feeling has arisen that Germany was being despised by his Government, and this has stung my subjects to the quick. This fact is looked upon as a taint to the national honour and to their feelings of self-respect.

Therefore, I am most sorry to have to state that popular feeling in Germany is just now very bitter on England, and as I found out during my spring visit to the south of Germany, that feeling is the same with the simple labourer as with their princes—it is unanimous. Most disheartening for my honest labours to bring the two countries to understand each other better. If this sort of high-handed treatment of German affairs by Lord Salisbury's Government is suffered to continue, I am afraid that there will be a permanent source of misunderstandings and recriminations between the two nations, which may in the end lead to bad blood.

I, of course, have been silent as to what I have *personally* gone through these last six months, the shame and pain I have suffered, and how my heart has bled when to my despair I had to watch how the arduous work of years was destroyed, to make the two nations understand each other and respect their aspira-

tions and wishes, by one blow by the high-handed and disdainful treatment of Ministers who have never come over to stay here and to study our institutions and people, and hardly ever have given themselves the trouble to understand them. Lord Salisbury's Government must learn to respect and treat us as equals ; as long as he cannot be brought to do that, people over here will remain distrustful, and a sort of coolness will be the unavoidable result.

It is very probable that the news of the dissatisfaction over here with regard to the Samoan affairs may have reached your informant in a roundabout way, and led him to believe it had to do with the visit to Cowes, but that is not the case. What a great pity it is that you could not pass by Strasburg, or any other station where I could have met you, and had a quiet talk with you in your carriage, about all this grievous mess ! Now you will understand, dear Grandmama, why I so ardently hoped to be able to go over for your birthday. That visit would have been perfectly understood over here, as the duty of the grandson to his grandmother, putting "Emperor," etc., apart, as according to the family ties ; and nobody would have said a word against it. The more so as the children were to be shown to their Great-grandmama. But a pleasure trip to Cowes, after all that has happened, and with respect to the temperature of our public opinion here, is utterly impossible now. I had not the heart to write about all these disagreeable matters to you, as I did not want to worry you, and because I hoped that Lord Salisbury would change his mind again, and therefore gulped everything down and held my tongue. But as you have yourself kindly enquired about the state of public opinion in Germany, I thought it my duty to state the facts as they are. I can assure you there is no man more deeply grieved and unhappy than me ! and all that on account of a stupid island which is a hairpin to England compared to the thousands of square miles she is annexing right and left unopposed every year.

proposal was accepted, and we appointed our Commissioner. He desired that its decisions should not be valid unless they were unanimous. Both the British and the American Governments were strongly opposed to this course, but they gave way to the German Emperor. He wished the Consul to be recalled. We could not accept this proposal, as it would have involved a condemnation of our Consul, who was not in the wrong. But we agreed that the authority of the Consul should be entirely superseded, and placed in the hands of the Commission.

In everything, therefore, the Emperor has had his way, and it is quite unintelligible to me on what grounds he can maintain that our action in regard to Samoa has been in any sense unfriendly to the German Government.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 5th June 1899.—Read a despatch from Sir F. Lascelles,¹ giving an extraordinary account of William's impertinent and outrageous language, in the course of a conversation relating to England.

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to the German Emperor.*

BALMORAL CASTLE, 12th June 1899.

DEAR WILLIAM,—I thank you for your letters which Uncle Arthur sent me.

With regard to Coburg I think and hope everything is likely to be settled to the satisfaction of the family and the Duchies.

Your other letter, I must say, has *greatly astonished* me. The tone in which you write about Lord Salisbury I can only attribute to a temporary irritation on your part, as I do not think you would otherwise have written in such a manner, and I doubt whether any Sovereign ever wrote in such terms to another Sovereign, and that Sovereign his own Grandmother, about their Prime Minister. I never should do such a thing, and I never personally attacked or complained of Prince Bismarck, though I knew well what

¹ Perhaps the despatch enclosing Colonel Grierson's report. See above, p. 359.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

20th June 1899.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully submits that a Cabinet Council was held to-day. Except some consultation with respect to Bills that are before the House, the Cabinet was exclusively occupied with the Transvaal question. The opinion rather prevailed that the Boers were less resolute than they had been, and that some moderate concessions might be expected. But it was thought better to take the steps necessary for putting our forces into a state of full efficiency in South Africa by supplying transport and munitions of war. The War Secretary gave a list of the steps necessary for this purpose, and they were discussed and approved of by the Cabinet. It was resolved that the moment had not come for sending reinforcements; but that for the present quieter preparations should be pushed forward; while the same demands as heretofore should continue to be made in our communications with the Transvaal Republic. No other matter was considered by the Cabinet.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 23rd June 1899.—After luncheon saw Sir Condie Stephen, who had just arrived, and who was very anxious to see me, as Minister von Strengé wanted to return to Coburg, and wished me to know the result of his interview with Helen. Sir Condie Stephen read the draft of Arthur's renunciation for himself and his son, signed by him and George C[ambridge], who acts as guardian for young Arthur, in which there is an important reservation, that in case Charlie should have no son or die unmarried, the succession would revert to young Arthur and a son of his. It has also been agreed that Helen, as guardian of her son, may call in her cousin Prince Wied for advice. Ernie Hohenlohe is to be co-guardian in the Duchies. Poor Helen has been greatly agitated in the settling of the details, but the principal thing is, that she need not be separated from her son.

24th June.—After luncheon again saw Sir Condie Stephen, and after speaking with me for a while he brought in Herr von Strengé. Herr von Strengé spoke of his conversations and of having seen Charlie, whom he was much pleased with. He told me that at the present time the feeling was so strong about the heir to a German throne being brought up in Germany, that it was impossible to resist it. Some few years back this was not the case, and I added might not occur again in some future time. I spoke of my affection for Coburg and of my beloved Albert's great devotion to his old home, also how concerned and troubled I had been about all these difficulties. He said the people were well aware of this, and were particularly anxious to secure the succession in the *English* line, adding that both Affie and Helen seemed to imagine greater difficulties than there really were.

6th July.—Dined in the large dining-room with the following: Count and Countess Deym, the Turkish Ambassador, M. Cambon (French Ambassador), the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, Ismay S[outhampton], Harriet P[hipps], Ethel C[adogan], Fanny D[rummond], Minnie Cochrane, Victor Churchill, Sir A. Bigge, General Clerk, Colonel Legge, and Lord E. Clinton. Sat between Count Deym and M. Cambon, who is a most agreeable well-informed man with large views. He spoke of the "*misérable affaire de Dreyfus*," the feeling about which had greatly changed. That he would probably be acquitted, and that the whole affair had arisen from the fact of his being a Jew and being rather a miserable creature. That he was very intelligent and clever, but had been so much disliked in the War Office, that when a succession of betrayals of secrets had taken place, his colleagues in the office had fixed suspicion on him. "*Il était la victime de son caractère.*" M. Cambon spoke of Louis Philippe, who, though a clever man, had refused to give any *réformes* and then fled, which if he had not done, the Orléans dynasty would now be on the Throne.

[*Telegram.*] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

TRONDHJEM, 22nd July 1899.—According to the statement of Victoria's doctor, the fracture of her calf bone entails her being laid up for at least three or four weeks, so I must of course go and stay with her. This robs me of the so much longed for opportunity of availing myself of your kind invitation to Osborne, which I most deeply regret. But I am in the hopes that, should it suit your convenience, I could pay you a visit in autumn after Papa's birthday, up to which date I have many engagements I cannot postpone. With best wishes for a nice warm summer, WILLIAM I. R.

[*Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to the German Emperor.*

23rd July 1899.—I thank you very much for your kind telegram, so sorry that you had to curtail your yachting on account of poor Dona's unfortunate accident. Shall be very pleased to receive you at Windsor in November, and I hope nothing will prevent your coming.

I trust you as well as all the children are quite well. VICTORIA R. I.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 24th July 1899.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully thanks your Majesty for allowing him to see the very interesting telegram from the German Emperor to your Majesty. Your letter has had a most salutary effect.

Lord Kitchener to Queen Victoria.

17 BELGRAVE SQUARE, 25th July 1899.—Lord Kitchener presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and is much honoured by the commission given him.

Lord Kitchener will do his best to obtain the finest female white donkey procurable in Egypt for your Majesty; he would, however, like if possible to see or have the measurements of the male Egyptian donkey Lord Wolseley brought over for the Queen, so as to match it as nearly as possible.

After a short visit to Lord Roberts in Ireland from which Lord Kitchener returns on the 7th, he proposes to leave England on the 10th August, and will be much honoured by receiving the Queen's commands to take leave of your Majesty.

The German Emperor to Sir Arthur Bigge.

NORDEFJORDEID, 27th July 1899.—Five days ago I telegraphed to H.M. the Queen thanking her for her gracious invitation to Osborne, which I am *désolé* not to be able to follow, as my poor wife has broken her fibula. I consequently proposed to H.M. to permit me to visit her later in the year anywhere it best suited her. As I have received no answer whatever, please enquire whether my telegram has arrived. WILLIAM I. R.

"HOHENZOLLERN," BERGEN, 29th July.—Best thanks. Telegram with H.M.'s invitation reached me to-day; was sent to Berchtesgaden instead of Drontheim; there the telegram remained because people took it for an expression of condolence by H.M. to my wife. Confusion worse confounded, or the Comedy of Errors; however, All's well that ends well.

I am most grateful, and look forward with pleasure to my stay at Windsor. WILLIAM I. R.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 28th July 1899.—Mr. Balfour with his humble duty to your Majesty begs humbly to inform your Majesty that the principal business of the evening was a debate on the affairs of the Transvaal. Sir H. Bannerman spoke first. His tone was apparently moderate, and with much that he said Mr. Balfour is in agreement. He admitted the reality of the Uitlanders' grievance. He admitted the right and the duty of the Government of the Queen to use its influence to get these mitigated or removed. But he seemed to assume that no remonstrance, however earnest or well-founded, should or could be backed up by force. This is, after all, the critical question. Without the threat of force, immediate or remote, it

is certain that nothing will be done. To say that we may remonstrate as much as we like, but must never under any circumstances go beyond remonstrances, is as much as to say that we must doom ourselves to a sterile diplomacy.

Mr. Chamberlain, in a most able survey of the whole situation, pointed this out, and explained the general policy of the Government on the lines of his original Birmingham speech and of some observations made by Mr. Balfour yesterday to the Midland Union. The feeling [of] the House was unmistakably on the side of the Government. There was indeed some "cross speaking," one or two Unionists deprecating a vigorous policy, one or two Liberals strongly taking the other side. But no one ventured to divide the House, the debate was favourable to the policy of the Colonial Secretary and his colleagues, and their position was shaken neither by vote nor speech. The debate lost interest after Mr. Chamberlain's statement. Mr. Dillon, Mr. Labouchere, and others took part in it. Perhaps the most remarkable and interesting utterance was made by a Welsh Radical lawyer, Mr. Ellis Griffiths, who spoke against his party.

The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.

"HOHENZOLLERN," KIEL, 2nd Aug. 1899.—I am so very glad to have won your Cup, the first my *Meteor* has won in Cowes, as the other one was taken by the former boat I had. Most grateful for kind telegram and wishes. So sorry Victoria's accident prevented my coming over to be present at the Regatta. Was very glad to meet your training Squadron at Bergen under the command of that most able and agreeable officer, Commodore Enoe, whose promotion to your Aide-de-Camp is well merited. WILLIAM I. R.

Colonel Barrington Foote to Sir Arthur Bigge.

ROYAL ARTILLERY BARRACKS, WOOLWICH, 5th August 1899.

MY DEAR ARTHUR,—Don't think me a bore, but poor old Zavertal is getting very depressed. I've

said his commission was in a box all ready to be signed some two months ago. Where is the hitch? I saw Brocklehurst, and his Bandmaster is in the same state. *He* had got hold of some idea that there was opposition on the part of the Admiralty! I cannot see how this could be. Yours ever, F. O. BARRINGTON FOOTE.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach to Sir Arthur Bigge.

9th Aug. 1899.—As to the Bandmasters,¹ I have been expecting to hear from the War Office for a long time, but have only just done so. I understand that only four are to have Commissions, and I have suggested that, as I understood their Commissions are to be those of Lieutenants, they should have the pay, allowances, etc., of Lieutenants. Yours very truly, M. HICKS BEACH.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 7th Aug. 1899.—Bertie, Alix, and Victoria came to say good-bye to me, as they are leaving quite early to-morrow morning, Bertie *en route* for Marienbad, and Alix to remain at Sandringham with Maud. Heard from Sir Condie Stephen that Helen had met with a very cordial reception, and that Charlie had already made a very good impression.

11th Aug.—Saw Mr. Balfour after luncheon, who said that this Session had been the most successful and the quietest he ever remembered, and that everything was most satisfactory excepting the Transvaal, which was a great source of anxiety. Firmness and a display of force would, he feared, bring things to a head, and the latter would entail the calling out of the Reserves, as well as calling Parliament together. We talked of many other things and of Lady Salisbury and his uncle, of whom he spoke most kindly and sympathetically.

12th Aug.—Saw Mr. Balfour after breakfasting in the tent. Consulted him as to whether I could propose to Lord Salisbury to come and see me here or

¹ See above, pp. 348-9, and below, p. 417.

whether it would be better not. He thought the latter, as he had had very bad accounts of poor Lady Salisbury, and Lord Salisbury could not possibly leave her. Mr. Balfour very kindly offered to come here once more before I left, if he could be of any use. Talked of different important matters. After luncheon saw old Sir Harry Keppel,¹ who is past ninety and quite wonderful, still so active. He seemed very pleased to see me. His nephew, Sir Henry Stephenson, who has been very ill, came with him.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

WALMER CASTLE, 12th Aug. 1899.—. . . Lady Salisbury, after whom your Majesty so kindly enquires, is still in bed; but we hope to get her up a little next week. She has been constantly improving, though at a very slow rate, for the last month; but she is still exceedingly weak, and her condition fills us still with a good deal of anxiety and apprehension. But the physicians say that she has a wonderful recuperative power, which indeed is evident; so that hope is not yet shut out. But it is a long uphill struggle.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 16th Aug.—Lord Salisbury . . . concurs with your Majesty in thinking that just now Great Britain is exceptionally strong; but there is violent jealousy both in France and Germany. Both have become Colonial Powers to a much greater extent than they were before, and the number of places where their paths cross the path of England is much larger than it used to be. Our relations with those two Powers will remain a subject of anxiety. Your Majesty's personal influence over the Emperor William is a powerful defence against danger in that direction; as is shown by the great effect of the letter which you wrote to him. In France we have no such protection. Sir Edmund Monson is rather nervous, lest the extreme parties in France should see in a war with England the only refuge from the dis-

¹ Admiral of the Fleet; son of the 4th Earl of Albemarle; died 1904.

graceful incidents in which France is now involved. But Sir Edmund always tends to be a prophet of evil : the danger does not appear to Lord Salisbury to be as yet of a serious kind.

Lord Salisbury agrees with your Majesty that Sir Charles Scott is too much disposed to put faith in Mouravieff. He is certainly reckless in his assurances, and probably treacherous. No great harm, however, is likely to come of it so long as Sir Charles faithfully reports home what is said to him. The Russian Government is perfidious, but pleasant in negotiation. On the whole the results at which it arrives are not worse than the results of the German Emperor's unreasoning caprice, or of the violent popular passions by which France is driven.

The news from the Transvaal looks somewhat better. Lord Salisbury still thinks a war improbable.

Sir M. Durand's correspondence is not satisfactory, but our position in Persia is extremely difficult. The only things which move the Persians are bribery and fear, but we cannot bribe even if we had the money ; and we have no soldiers in the Persian territory.

Lord Curzon to Queen Victoria.

VICEREGAL LODGE, SIMLA, 16th Aug. 1899.—The Viceroy with his humble duty to your Majesty, the Queen Empress, has the honour to acknowledge the letter which your Majesty was so good as to write to him on the 28th of July. He has not troubled your Majesty for some weeks, fearing that his letters might become a nuisance.

The Viceroy has paid special attention to the strong expression of your Majesty's wishes concerning the appointment of a Resident at Indore ; and has selected an officer named Colonel Jennings, who has a capacity for getting on with Native Chiefs, being talkative, conciliatory, and not disposed to interfere too much. It will really rest with the Maharajah how the new scheme works ; and the Viceroy has written to the Prince to tell him so. If he is reasonable, and

shows any desire to fulfil his promises, to profit by the advice given to him, and to govern well, there is no reason why the Government of India should fall out with him, or why his own sense of dignity should suffer from arrangements to which so many other Indian Princes of equal rank have contentedly submitted. If he is obstinate or capricious or rude, there will be a renewal of friction. . . .

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 18th Aug. 1899.—Captain Harrington, my Agent in Abyssinia, brought a phonograph message from the Emperor Menelek and the Empress Taitou, which I listened to, and the translation of which was read to me. It was very curious.

24th Aug.—Lord Salisbury arrived for two nights. Saw him directly after luncheon. He seemed well, and talked a good deal of his poor wife and her illness, hoping to be able to move her in a fortnight, as she is decidedly better again. Lord Salisbury admitted that the Session had been the most satisfactory one known for many years. Much had been done and measures had been carried by large majorities without any disagreeable scenes or fighting, greatly owing to so few Irish being able to come over. The Transvaal question he hoped was improving. He was distressed to hear of the bad feeling in Germany against us, which he hoped might get better. Talked, of course, of the dreadful Dreyfus case. Lord Salisbury hoped he might be acquitted, but one could not tell. The failure of the War Office he, as usual, lamented over, and said most of his colleagues were in despair about it.

The Queen of the Netherlands to Queen Victoria.

HET LOO, 3rd September 1899.

MY DEAR AUNT,—The serious news from South Africa that reached me these last days causes me great unhappiness, as they seem to indicate that a war is very near to break out.

You will understand, dear Aunt, the feelings of

horror which affect me at the idea of a war, the more so in this case, where two nations will stand in arms opposite to one another, to one of which I am attached by bonds of friendship, the other by ties of common origin. I venture to hope that this circumstance will explain and excuse in your eyes, dear Aunt, my addressing you in this matter, by appealing to your well-known feeling of humanity and magnanimity, and entreating you to use your powerful influence to prevent this war, that would I know fill also your heart with sorrow, because it will bring mourning and misery into many families on both sides by the inevitable bloodshed and destruction of property. God grant that your wisdom, experience, and greatness of mind may find the way to avert this impending calamity!

I hope, dear Aunt, you will understand the feelings which prompted me to write this letter, and therefore consider its contents in a friendly way. I remain, dearest Aunt and Sister, with respectful love, your Majesty's very affectionate niece and sister, WILHELMINA.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

8th Sept. 1899.—Humble duty. At Cabinet to-day the messages from Natal were considered, urging that troops should be sent to protect the Natal frontier and Colony against attack on part of the Boers, of which there were many signs, and which might suddenly come to pass.

It was therefore decided to send six thousand men from India, and four battalions with some Artillery and Cavalry from England: orders for the Expedition to be given without delay.¹ There was a very long

¹ In a letter of the same date Lord Lansdowne gives details, and adds: "The Indian contingent is expected to reach Natal in from four to five weeks, the three batteries of Artillery in about six weeks, two battalions of Infantry in about a month, and the other two in about six weeks. With these additions the total force in Natal will amount to about 15,000 men, the whole of the above reinforcements, except two battalions of Infantry, being destined for that Colony."

discussion on various military questions which had to be decided. It was also resolved to address a note to the Orange Free State Government calling their attention to the absolute necessity of a scrupulous neutrality on the part of the Government and people of the Orange Free State if, contrary to our earnest hopes, any collision between us and the Transvaal were to take place.

The draft of a despatch which Mr. Chamberlain proposes to address to the South African Republic in reply to that which they have sent to him was carefully considered and amended sentence by sentence. It was very moderate in its tone; but it adhered firmly to the demands with respect to the franchise, the constitution of the Assembly, and the other similar questions, which we have already made. . . .

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 9th Sept. 1899.—Heard the news of poor Dreyfus' fresh condemnation by five votes to two, through Reuter, and also through Mr. Herbert, Secretary of Embassy at Paris. After having been so splendidly defended by Labori and Demange, it is dreadful that it should have been in vain. Everyone is greatly excited and distressed about it.

[Telegram.¹] *Queen Victoria to Mr. Herbert.*

BALMORAL, 9th Sept. 1899.—Thanks for your telegram with the news of this monstrous verdict against this poor martyr. I trust he will appeal against this dreadful sentence. V. R. I.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[Telegram.]

BALMORAL, 9th Sept. 1899.—. . . I am too horrified for words at this monstrous horrible sentence against this poor martyr Dreyfus. If only all Europe would

¹ This telegram, which was not in cypher, leaked out in Paris, and produced in the Press abuse of England and of the Queen. Mr. Herbert was Secretary of Embassy in Paris; afterwards Sir Michael H. Herbert, G.C.B., Ambassador to the United States.

express its horror and indignation! I trust there will be a severe retribution. V. R. I.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 12th Sept. 1899.—. . . He entirely shares your Majesty's burning indignation at the gross and monstrous injustice which has been perpetrated in France. It is perfectly horrible; and gives the impression that truth and justice are no longer regarded as of any serious importance in France. It is difficult to understand how any country can conduct either civil or military Government in such a deplorable condition of the public mind.

Queen Victoria to the Queen of the Netherlands.¹

[Copy.]

BALMORAL, (?) September 1899.

MY DEAR NIECE,—I thank you very much for your kind letter received a few days ago, and which has had my sincerest consideration.

I sympathise most deeply with your expressions of the horrors of war, than which no one can feel more strongly than I do; and earnestly hope that it may be averted. But I cannot abandon my own subjects who have appealed to me for protection. If President Kruger is reasonable, there will be no war, but the issue is in his hands.

With kindest regards to your dear Mother, believe me always, dearest Niece, your very affectionate Aunt and Sister, VICTORIA R. I.

Viscount Wolseley to Queen Victoria.

12th Sept. 1899.—Lord Wolseley presents his humble duty to the Queen, and has the honour to inform her Majesty that it has been found necessary to send Lieut.-General Sir George White, G.C.B., to Natal to take command there and make due preparation for the reception of the Brigade of Cavalry, the Brigade of Foot, and the Brigade Division of Artillery soon to start from India for that Colony.

¹ Lord Salisbury had advised the Queen as to the terms of this reply.

The Commander-in-Chief is aware that Lord Lansdowne has already reported this to the Queen. The officer at present commanding the troops in Natal will, upon the arrival of Sir George White, take over command of the Infantry battalions now there, and of those coming from India, and Lord Wolseley would recommend for the Queen's approval that Major-General French,¹ now commanding Cavalry Brigade at Aldershot, should go as soon as possible to Natal to command the Cavalry there. When the Indian contingent reaches Natal, we shall have there, with the four battalions and the Brigade Division of R.A. going from home and from the Mediterranean, six regiments of Cavalry, eleven battalions of Foot, and nine battalions of Field, and one of Mountain Artillery, sixty guns in all. Colonel Knox, a very good Artillery officer, is now on his road to Ladysmith to command at that station, but it is intended to send out at once a Colonel to command this large force of Artillery. Should we be forced into a war by the Boers, we are to send from home one Army Corps and one Cavalry division complete, when Sir Redvers Buller will assume command of all the forces in South Africa, Sir George White, in command of one of the divisions of the Army Corps, being his second-in-command.

As soon as the latter reaches South Africa, it is intended to make Natal into an independent command, leaving Sir F. Forestier-Walker, now at the Cape, to command all the troops in that Colony. We shall have two hospital ships plying between Durban and the Cape, to which latter place we intend to send all our wounded and our seriously sick cases. We shall establish a large base hospital near Cape Town, probably at Simon's Bay, fourteen miles from Cape Town, where we have a large Naval station but no city, and where the sick can be landed close to the hospital.

Lord Wolseley hopes he may not tire the Queen by all these details. It must be remembered that if war comes, we shall be obliged to send the largest force

¹ Eventually Field-Marshal the Earl of Ypres.

that has ever left our shores to take part in it, and the distance being great, it will be in all respects the most serious business we have ever had on hand. I have the honour to be, the Queen's most humble and faithful servant, WOLSELEY.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

15th Sept. 1899.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty to your Majesty respectfully submits that two or three times lately Count Hatzfeldt has pressed earnestly upon him that he should suggest to your Majesty to ask Count Bülow, the Foreign Minister, on the occasion of the visit of the German Emperor. Lord Salisbury has heard nothing but good of Monsieur de Bülow ; and the German Ambassador has pressed so earnestly that he should be invited that it is probably of some importance.

Sir Edmund Monson to Queen Victoria.

PARIS, 15th Sept. 1899.—Sir Edmund Monson presents his humble duty to your Majesty.

He understands from Mr. Herbert that your Majesty is anxious to have any information procurable about the Dreyfus case ; but he learns also that Mr. Herbert wrote at considerable length by last messenger to Sir Arthur Bigge, so that your Majesty is undoubtedly in possession of all the information of interest at present known to the Embassy.

At the interview which Sir Edmund Monson had with M. Delcassé the day before yesterday, the latter did not refer to the Dreyfus case at all ; and though it has been more than once stated in the unofficial press that the President has decided to give the unfortunate man a free pardon, no confirmation of that statement has been formally made.

There seems to be very little doubt of the terrible effect which his sufferings have had upon Dreyfus' physical condition ; and that his health is now so bad that his life will only be able to be prolonged by extreme care.

The verdict, gained as it was by the use of every kind of illegality, can hardly be regarded as a triumph by the persecuting party, who had of course hoped for a unanimous condemnation. The disappointment on their part is all the greater from the fact that it is notorious that an acquittal was very nearly arrived at. . . .

[*Telegram.*]

20th Sept.—Dreyfus was liberated last night.
MONSON.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

23rd Sept. 1899.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully submits to your Majesty that the telegram sent yesterday by Mr. Chamberlain in answer to the last Transvaal despatch practically only stated that we could not accept the answer given by the Boers, and that we must consider our position. We have disclaimed any intention to interfere with their independence; but we decline to admit that a small Dutch population shall be allowed in a state which is under your Majesty's suzerainty to oppress a much larger number of your Majesty's British subjects. A fuller statement of our complaints and of the remedies we demand will be considered at the Cabinet next Friday.

The precise form in which our demands for the security of the Uitlanders is to be advanced, will be a matter for very grave consideration. On the one hand we cannot abandon them without great injustice, nor without endangering your Majesty's authority in the whole of South Africa. On the other hand, we are most earnestly anxious to avoid any rupture with the Boers, if it is possible. But they do not assist us to do so. Our last despatch was very carefully considered by the Cabinet, and by general admission, was very moderate in its demands, and very considerate in its language. But it was rejected by the Boers without ceremony.

It is impossible to avoid believing that the Boers

really aim at setting up a South African Republic, consisting of the Transvaal, the Orange Free State, and your Majesty's Colony. It is impossible to account in any other manner for their rejection of our most moderate proposals.

The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.

MALMOE, 25th Sept. 1899.—Most grateful for kind letter and invitations for Dona. She will be most happy to come. Which of the boys will be able to accompany me I will answer later as the eldest are just before their examination. Bülow most honoured and grateful. WILLIAM I. R.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

29th Sept. 1899.—Humble duty. At Cabinet this afternoon a statement of the precautions which are thought necessary by your Majesty's Government to protect the rights and liberties of the Outlanders was agreed to. Your Majesty will receive in a day or two a revised copy. The demands are very moderate; but by all accounts the Boers are obstinate.

The effect of the resolution voted by the Assembly of the Orange Free State was also considered; and the opinion was unanimous that the terms of the resolution, especially its closing phrases, constituted a declaration of alliance between the Orange Free State and the Transvaal.

It was thought necessary that the Reserve should be called out, as it appeared probable that a considerable force might be required. But for that purpose it will be necessary under the Statute that Parliament should meet; and Lord Salisbury was instructed to submit to your Majesty that it should be summoned for the 17th of October.

Sir Edmund Monson to Queen Victoria.

PARIS, 1st Oct. 1899.—Sir Edmund Monson presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and ventures

to offer his most respectful thanks for your Majesty's gracious letter of the 22nd September.

Since his arrival at Carpentras Dreyfus has been living in complete seclusion, and appears to be desirous of not in any way attracting public attention. If, as it would appear, he nurtures the intention of eventually attempting the complete vindication of his honour, he is probably well advised in withdrawing himself for the moment from observation. There seems to be a general desire to allow the passions excited by the *affaire* plenty of time to cool down; and it is curious to note how extensively the subject has been dropped by the newspapers. The calculation probably made by Dreyfus and his advisers may be that it will be more advantageous to wait for a more dispassionate condition of public opinion before taking any step for the definite rehabilitation of the unfortunate man's honour.

Meanwhile, the French newspapers have found in the Transvaal question an opportunity for retaliating upon England for the freedom with which the English Press criticised the proceedings at the Rennes Court-martial. To anyone, however, who has to study carefully the conduct and methods of the French journalists, it can be no matter of surprise that they gladly avail themselves of a topic of such interest for the purpose of abuse. It is nevertheless to be regretted, for the credit of journalism, that there should be so widespread a combination of falsehood and misrepresentation in the articles published here upon the attitude of your Majesty's Government. The only redeeming point in the systematic abuse of England is the never-failing respect which characterises every allusion to your Majesty. . . .

Viscount Wolseley to Queen Victoria.

4th October 1899.

MADAM,—I think the enclosed papers will interest your Majesty. The list of Staff is not quite perfect, as it is an early copy. I am now sending your Majesty

a telegram to say we have no news from South Africa of any importance. It is a matter of importance to gain as much time as we can, to allow the troops coming from India to get to Durban, and from there to Ladysmith before any attack is made by the Boers. Sir George White has left Cape Town, and will be in Natal next Saturday, 7th instant. Sir Redvers Buller is to embark for the Cape on Saturday, 14th instant. When all our troops destined for South Africa have arrived there, your Majesty will have in that country about 70,000 men of your Majesty's Army, the largest number *ever* sent from the United Kingdom for any war. I have asked the Cabinet to call out thirty-six Militia battalions, that is, one belonging to each of the line regiments that will have a battalion in South Africa when the Army has arrived there. Also to raise seven of the cavalry regiments left at home to a higher establishment, and to raise all the field and horse artillery batteries for the 2nd Army Corps (at home) from four- to six-gun batteries.

General Kelly Kenny takes up the temporary command at Aldershot next Saturday, an appointment which I hope may meet with your Majesty's approval.

I shall keep your Majesty constantly informed of all further doings with regard to our preparations. On Saturday next, the 7th instant, by your Majesty's orders, the Army Reserve for all the corps to be employed will be called out, and should be clothed and armed and in the ranks by the 17th instant. I hope to get off the first detachment of battalions for the seat of war, if we are to have war, about the 21st or 22nd or 23rd instant. I still cling to the idea that in the end we shall have no serious fighting. I have the honour to be, your Majesty's most humble, most faithful servant, WOLSELEY.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 5th Oct. 1899.—Sir Redvers Buller arrived, and I saw him a little after eleven. He had much that was interesting to say in his blunt, straight-

forward way. He spoke of his staff, amongst whom was Colonel Miles, who was for a short time with Eddy. Sir Redvers was to go out on the 14th, Colonel Kelly Kenny, who had been under Arthur at Aldershot, taking the temporary command during his absence. There had been delays and waste of time, which was to be regretted, and he said the War Office left much to be desired, and needed entire remodelling. I expressed to Sir Redvers my confidence in him, but he said he hoped it would not be a very long business, and did not think "there would be much hard fighting." I recommended Christle very much to him, who, he said, was an excellent officer. Went through the return of the troops with him. He seemed satisfied with what had been arranged, and mentioned several of the various officers who were going out. I begged him to let me know when he arrived, and to write to me if he could.

[*Telegram.*] *Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.*

WHITEHALL, 10th Oct. 1899.—Government of the South African Republic have presented an ultimatum in the following terms :

(a) That all points of mutual difference shall be regulated by the friendly course of arbitration, or by whatever amicable way be agreed upon by this Government with her Majesty's Government.

(b) That the troops on the borders of this Republic shall be instantly withdrawn.

(c) That all reinforcements of troops which have arrived in South Africa since the 1st June, 1899, shall be removed from South Africa within a reasonable time to be agreed upon with this Government, and with a mutual assurance and guarantee on the part of this Government that no attack upon or hostilities against any portion of the possessions of the British Government shall be made by the Republic during further negotiations within a period of time to be subsequently agreed upon between the Governments, and this Government will on compliance therewith be prepared to withdraw the armed burghers of this Republic from the borders.

(d) That her Majesty's troops which are now on the high seas shall not be landed in any port of South Africa.

This Government must press for an immediate and affirmative

answer to these four questions, and earnestly requests her Majesty's Government to return such an answer before or upon Wednesday the 11th October, 1899, not later than 5 o'clock p.m., and it desires further to add that in the event of unexpectedly no satisfactory answer being received by it within that interval [it] will with great regret be compelled to regard the action of her Majesty's Government as a formal declaration of war, and will not hold itself responsible for the consequences thereof, and that in the event of any further movements of troops taking place within the above-mentioned time in the nearer directions of our borders, this Government will be compelled to regard that also as a formal declaration of war. I have, etc. Signed, F. W. REITZ, State Secretary.

Full text follows. J. CHAMBERLAIN.

7.45 [p.m.].—Lord Salisbury has approved following reply to be delivered to South African Republic to-morrow: "H.M.'s Government have received with great regret South African Republic's peremptory demands conveyed in your telegram of October 9th. You will inform the Government of South African Republic in reply that the conditions demanded by them are such as H.M.'s Government deem it impossible to discuss."

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 10th Oct. 1899.—I annex the astounding telegram sent by the South African Republic, and the answer which the Government has sent. This must, I fear, lead to war, but fortunately Sir George White has landed, and is in his place with quite a sufficient number of troops to withstand any attack.

Mr. Schomberg McDonnell to Sir Fleetwood Edwards.
[Telegram.]

WHITEHALL, 11th Oct. 1899.—Lord Rosebery has written to the papers declaring that a situation has been created beyond party polemics, that the time is past for criticism or condemnation of Government, and that the nation should close its ranks in face of attack by South African Republic. He is profoundly convinced that a repetition of the policy which concluded peace after Majuba Hill is impossible for any Government. McDONNELL.

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

COLONIAL OFFICE, 12th Oct. 1899.—Mr. Chamberlain presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and begs to thank your Majesty for your telegram approving the answer to the Government of the South African Republic.

This Government, by its inconceivable folly and arrogance, has itself closed the door to all chance of a peaceful settlement; and although war is at all times deeply to be regretted, Mr. Chamberlain has long felt that the differences between this country and the Transvaal could only be settled by force, and he is glad that the inevitable conflict has now been commenced by the Boers under circumstances which must unite every loyal subject of your Majesty in its energetic prosecution.

Your Majesty's Government will now hold back the despatch which formulated their demands, and which was intended to be presented yesterday; and they will enter upon the war with free hands as to the terms on which peace may ultimately be secured.

Mr. Chamberlain regrets the delay which must elapse before your Majesty's forces will be ready to take the offensive. He would personally have been glad to despatch much larger reinforcements at a much earlier period, but the attitude of the leaders of the Opposition and the general state of public opinion at the time made it necessary to delay action which might have given rise to a serious division in this country. Such a division might have hampered the operations in the field, and might also have interfered later with the imposition of satisfactory terms of peace.

It seemed therefore better to take the risks of delay and not to incur the expenditure necessary for the transport of an Army Corps until public opinion had been instructed in the gravity of the issues and there was no fear of a division of views on strict party lines.

But your Majesty is aware that during the last three months reinforcements amounting in the whole

to about 13,000 men have been quietly sent to South Africa ; and Mr. Chamberlain understands that it is the opinion of the military authorities that your Majesty's Forces will be able to hold their own everywhere until the Army Corps is ready to move. In this case the delay will not be to our disadvantage, as the peculiar organisation of the Boer army makes it difficult for them to endure a long campaign, and it is even possible that many of them may go home to their farms without waiting for an attack.

Mr. Chamberlain has just been informed by Lord Lansdowne that a complete brigade of 5 battalions with its remounts will be ready on the 20th October, and should arrive in South Africa on or before 11th November.

Meanwhile, the troops already sent are arriving in almost all cases before the dates named for them.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 17th Oct. 1899.—. . . On the question of the Address to the Throne the debate on the Transvaal war was raised at once and continued all night. . . . [Sir H. Bannerman's] speech exhibited a peculiarity which Mr. Balfour has more than once observed in his Parliamentary utterances. He began with an excellent and patriotic statement to the effect that he and his friends were prepared to support the Government in any proposals financial and military which might be deemed necessary for the successful prosecution of the war. Unfortunately, he spoiled the effect of this commencement by appending to it a feeble and somewhat captious criticism of the action of the Government in sending out troops and in the conduct of the negotiations. Mr. Balfour was therefore compelled to make a controversial reply which, under existing circumstance, he would have been glad to avoid. When Mr. Balfour sat down Mr. Dillon rose and moved an amendment (seconded by Mr. Labouchere), condemning the whole policy of the Government. For the rest of the evening the debate

was given up mainly to the disloyal Irish, who revived and repeated every calumny which the ingenuity of the foreign or South African Press has directed against this country. Mr. Balfour did not think it necessary for any member of the Government to reply ; but Colonel Saunderson made a most happy retort upon his fellow-countrymen. In the division the Government were victorious by an immense majority, 322-54.

19th Oct.— . . The debate on the Address was concluded this evening. The principal feature of the proceedings was a very able and exhaustive defence by Mr. Chamberlain. In a speech of two hours and three-quarters he surveyed every criticism on the recent negotiations, answered Sir William Harcourt, and pulverised Mr. [Philip] Stanhope. He was followed by Sir Edward Clarke, usually a loyal and efficient member of the Conservative Party, and once a Law Officer of the Crown. On the subject of the Transvaal he has from the first taken an unfortunate line ; and felt bound, in the interests of consistency, to say to-night in the House of Commons what he has already said in the country. He was ingenious and legal, but hardly convincing. Mr. Morley, who spoke later in the evening, was neither ingenious nor legal nor convincing ; and Mr. Courtney who, like Sir E. Clarke, spoke against his party, added no strength to the cause of the Opposition. Mr. Haldane,¹ Radical member for Haddington, strongly supported the Government, and Mr. Balfour, who had only twenty minutes before the suspension of business in which to reply, expressed the view, which he strongly holds, that the Boer Government were determined from the first to fight rather than give really efficient measures of relief to the Uitlanders. A division on the amendment was taken, and the Government won by the enormous majority of 227—a most satisfactory conclusion to the debate.

¹ Afterwards successively Secretary of State for War, and Lord Chancellor ; created Viscount Haldane.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 19th Oct. 1899.—Drove with Anna and Franzjos round by the Pass of Ballater, Beatrice following, driving herself with Louisa A[ntrim]. Went back through Ballater to the barracks, where my guard of Gordon Highlanders were drawn up, having to start off for Edinburgh to join the rest of the regiment and embark for South Africa. I drove down the line, they marched past and reformed in line. I addressed them a few parting words as follows : “ I desire to wish you Godspeed. May God protect you ! I am confident that you will always do your duty, and will ever maintain the high reputation of the Gordon Highlanders.” The men then gave three cheers, and I called up Captain Kerr, who seemed much moved, and could hardly speak. I shook hands with him, and wished him a safe return, and also spoke to the two Lieutenants. It was very touching, and I felt quite a lump in my throat as we drove away, and I thought of how these remarkably fine men might not all return.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

20th Oct. 1899.—I sincerely hope that the increased taxation, necessary to meet the expenses of the war, will not fall upon the working classes ; but I fear they will be most affected by the extra sixpence on beer.¹

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

21st Oct. 1899.—Humble duty. It is not believed that the tax on beer will fall upon the working classes so much as on the brewers. It would not, however, be safe to lay down as a principle that the working class should bear no part of the cost of a war. It would be not fair on the richer classes, who at the elections are

¹ Lord Salisbury had telegraphed to her that the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed to put a penny on the income-tax and sixpence on beer. But after further consideration it was decided to postpone detailed financial proposals till the Budget.

in a small minority. The policy of the country is decided by the working classes, and of course they don't pay the income tax. . . .

[*Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to Sir George White.*

20th Oct. 1899.—Congratulate all concerned on brilliant success at Glencoe.¹ Deeply grieved at heavy losses. Am most anxious to hear how General Symons and all wounded officers and men are going on. V. R. I.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

[*Telegram.*]

22nd Oct. 1899.—My heart bleeds for these dreadful losses. Again to-day a great success, but I fear very dearly bought. Would you try and convey my warmest, heartfelt sympathy with the near relations of the fallen and wounded, and admiration of the conduct of those they have lost? V. R. I.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

22nd Oct. 1899.—. . . I quite understand and appreciate your Majesty's reasons for going to the Italian town.²

Sir Arthur Bigge to Viscount Wolseley.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 22nd October 1899.

MY DEAR LORD WOLSELEY,—The Queen has commanded me to express to you her gratification at the practical and successful manner in which the mobilisation of the forces for South Africa has been carried out; and also at the remarkable and almost general return to the colours of those Reservists who were called out.

The Queen knows how pleased you must be at these practical and excellent results of a system, for the development of which you have so indefatigably worked during many years. Yours very sincerely,
ARTHUR BIGGE.

¹ The first engagement of the war.

² Bordighera. Owing to the bitter feeling in France against England over the war, the Queen was making arrangements to visit the Italian, and not the French, Riviera in the coming spring.

Viscount Wolseley to Queen Victoria.

23rd Oct. 1899.—Lord Wolseley presents his humble duty to the Queen, and feels very proud indeed that her Majesty should feel satisfied with the manner in which the military machinery of her Army has worked during the present mobilisation of one Army Corps and one Division of Cavalry. Lord Wolseley's only regret is, that this mobilisation did not take place two months ago.

The result up to the present is as follows: On the 7th instant the Queen's orders for the mobilisation of the above-mentioned force were issued. The men were given ten days to assemble, the number to whom notices were sent being about 24,500 men. That is, the number of men belonging to the regiments of Cavalry and of Infantry, of Artillery, etc., etc., to be employed. Of this 24,500 men, 24,040 rejoined, and of that number 1,638 were rejected by our doctors as unfit for active service. The first detachment embarked on the 20th instant at Southampton: five battalions, of whom four constitute the 2nd Brigade of 1st Division, and one belonged to the troops for the Line of Communications. I never saw five finer battalions, *not one* man under the influence of drink. When the five ships carrying these 5,000 men had pushed off from the quays, the men crowding every possible part of the upper decks sang *God Save the Queen*.

By the evening of yesterday, Monday, 23rd instant, some 21,161 men were embarked, and had sailed for South Africa. This reflects the greatest credit upon all Staff Officers who had to plan and carry out this operation, by far the largest operation of the sort we have ever attempted before.

Lord Wolseley regrets very much they are not already in South Africa, where their services are now sorely needed. The horse ships are very well fitted, and I hope the horses may have a comfortable voyage. Everything that could be done to make it so has been

carried out, and attended to as the Queen desired. The number of horses embarked was 1,895.

Lord Wolseley knows the Queen will be glad to hear from him that our 2nd Army Corps could be mobilised *quite easily* in a fortnight, and ready for embarkation if needed.

He has urged the Government to call out 36 battalions of Militia, to raise to war strength at home 7 regiments of Cavalry, and the 18 batteries of Artillery we should want for our 2nd Army Corps. The Cabinet have agreed to this, and I think the effect abroad will be good.

Lord Wolseley is in great hopes that the success of this partial mobilisation may so satisfy all classes of the Queen's subjects that even the old-fashioned Generals, who honestly believed it would not work, may recognise its advantages. I have the honour to be, your Majesty's most obedient and most faithful subject, WOLSELEY.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 23rd Oct. 1899.—Received a telegram in cypher which distressed and made me very anxious, saying that General Yule was afraid of being again attacked, and had to retire, leaving the whole of the camp, as well as the wounded, behind, the enemy's forces being very large. Sir G. White considers the situation anxious, and sent for all available troops. Drove with Louisa A[ntrim] and Victoria Grant. There was a perfect avalanche of telegrams and things to be seen to when I came home. I feel quite overpowered.

Lord Brassey to Queen Victoria.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MELBOURNE, 18th Oct. 1899.—Lord Brassey presents his humble duty to her Majesty the Queen Empress, and has great gratification in reporting that the patriotic sentiment evoked by the recent events in South Africa has been deep

and almost universal. In Parliament the only dissentients have been a small group of narrow views, and connected with a section only of the Labour Party. In a time of real emergency Lord Brassey is convinced that Australia could and would give powerful aid to the Mother Country.

The departure of our small contingent will be made the occasion for an imposing military and patriotic demonstration of loyalty to your Majesty and the noble Empire over which you rule. . . .

*The Earl of Ranfurly to Lord Edward Clinton.*¹

[Copy.] GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WELLINGTON, 23rd October 1899.

DEAR CLINTON,—The proceedings of last Saturday here, when the New Zealand contingent embarked for the Transvaal, were so unique in Colonial history that I am sending you an account in case the Queen should care to hear it. . . . Since the first proposal to send a contingent to South Africa, the country has been full of loyal excitement, and any number more could have been enrolled had it been so desired.

I have long wished to convey to her Majesty privately how remarkable is the intense and universal devotion to herself in this far-off country. It is so striking that, where so many are Colonials by birth and have therefore never come in contact with home influences, the Queen's name is a magic spell which arouses the wildest enthusiasm wherever one may go. I have visited every town in the Colony, and *everywhere* it is the same; I should much like to think she knew it. New Zealanders look to England as their own; they watch Imperial questions with the deepest interest, and I am certain that had 2,000 men been called upon instead of 200, there would have been more than sufficient volunteers, though I fear our Colonial resources in the "War Office" line would be quite unable to equip such a number, as no stock is kept on hand; even for these 200, all the

¹ For submission to the Queen. Lord Edward Clinton, son of the 5th Duke of Newcastle, was Master of the Household 1894-1901.

clothes and saddlery had to be made, and in some cases the material even to be manufactured, so a fortnight is not a bad record to have sent off all complete under these circumstances.

I have found my time here a busy time, always fully occupied, and am glad to say have had no serious difficulties with my Ministers. The Premier, Mr. Seddon, is a thorough Englishman; and though this Colony has certainly been a pioneer in some experimental legislation under his guidance, still he never forgets British interests, and is never tired of talking about his Jubilee visit to London, and to Windsor. . . . Believe me, yours sincerely, RANFURLY.

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

24th Oct. (1899).—Mr. Chamberlain presents his humble duty and begs to submit the following message, to Canada and Australia, for your Majesty's approval: "Her Majesty the Queen desires me to thank the people of her Dominion of Canada and the people of her Colonies in Australia for their striking manifestation of loyalty and patriotism in their voluntary offer to send troops to co-operate with her Majesty's Imperial Forces in maintaining her position and the rights of British subjects in South Africa. She wishes the troops 'Godspeed and a safe return.' "

This telegram, if despatched to-night, would reach the Colonial contingent before they start.

[*Telegram.*] *The Earl of Minto to Mr. Chamberlain.*

25th Oct. 1899.—The people of Canada received with sincere gratification the message from her Majesty the Queen conveying her thanks for Canada's contribution to the British troops now *en route* for South Africa. The good wishes expressed by their Sovereign for her Canadian troops will inspire them with deep sentiments of loyalty and patriotism and with a determination to sustain the reputation that Canadian

Volunteers have earned in the past history of this part of the Empire.¹

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 26th Oct. 1899.—Heard that General Joubert had announced poor Sir William Symons' death, which took place yesterday. We had hoped he was recovering. Dreadfully grieved. The poor wife was, it seems, to have started for South Africa in two days! Also heard that General Yule had marched into Ladysmith with his column, and had not been molested. There had been exceptionally heavy rain, but the men, though done up, were in good spirits, and only required rest.

The Government has had enormous majorities for the money required for the war.

4th Nov.—Received from Lord Lansdowne the first telegrams from Sir Redvers Buller, from which I quote the following extracts: "Sir Redvers Buller thinks he had better strike straight for Bloemfontein, capital of the Orange Free State, but it will be more than a month before we can do so. If Kimberley and Ladysmith fall in the meantime he will be very sorry, but he cannot help them." In another telegram he seems completely to have changed his mind. "He now considers he must reinforce Natal with one division and send the other two to relieve Kimberley. This will delay his advance, and he thinks he will have to wait till January before commencing offensive operations." This does not sound very cheering.

Sir Redvers Buller to Queen Victoria.

CAPE TOWN, 7th Nov. 1899.—Sir Redvers Buller presents his humble duty to the Queen. Sir Redvers duly received the Queen's telegrams, but he did not telegraph as directed; he had unfortunately at the time nothing but bad news to send, and that he thinks always gets known soon enough. The situa-

¹ Similar telegrams passed between the Governor of New South Wales and the Queen a few days later, on the sailing of the first portion of the New South Wales contingent.

tion at the Cape is, during the interval of waiting for the arrival of troops, bad enough; that it is not worse is due to the gallantry of the British soldiers, who have, as often before, just, as Sir Redvers hopes, saved the situation. The troops in Natal have behaved so gallantly that the enemy, who is believed to outnumber them by two to one, have not apparently dared to separate their force and attack Pietermaritzburg, which is practically at their mercy. It is hoped we shall have sufficient troops here in time to reinforce it.

In this Colony the main difficulty is the temper of the Dutch population; they are armed, and thoroughly disaffected; the English, on the other hand, are not armed. Matters at present look as if it would be a near thing whether we shall have sufficient troops in time to so check the enemy's advance through the Colony or to check a rising in their favour. . . .

At the present moment the relief of Kimberley is the paramount factor of the situation in Cape Colony. Sir Redvers hopes to be in a position to attempt it from Orange River Station, which is 570 miles from Cape Town, in three weeks from now. Lord Methuen will be in charge of the operation, and will have with him the Brigade of Guards, and another composite Brigade. . . . Sir Redvers does not anticipate that the force will meet with very serious difficulties. . . .

The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.

[*Telegram.*]

NEUES PALAIS, 9th Nov. 1899.—It is with sincere pleasure that I have received the news of the signing of the agreement about Samoa¹ between our Governments yesterday. I feel sure that this fact will help to promote good feeling and peace between our two countries. WILLIAM I. R.

[*Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to the German Emperor.*

BALMORAL, 9th Nov. 1899.—Many thanks for your kind telegram. I am equally pleased at the conclusion of the Samoa arrangement.

¹ See Introductory Note to this chapter.

It is always my great wish as well as that of my Government to be on the most friendly terms with Germany. V. R. I.

Notice in the London Gazette

WAR OFFICE, 14th Nov. [1899].

The undermentioned Bandmasters, with the honorary rank of Second Lieutenants, to be Bandmasters, with the rank of Second Lieutenants in the Army : C. Godfrey, Royal Horse Guards ; I. Zavertal, Royal Artillery ; J. Sommer, Royal Engineers.

Sir Arthur Bigge's endorsement :

10th Nov. 1899. At last !!¹

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 11th Nov. 1899.—Arrived at Windsor a little before nine. It was a fine bright morning. Rested after breakfast, and at a quarter to one drove down to the Cavalry Barracks with Beatrice and Emily A. to inspect the composite Household Cavalry regiment, which is going to South Africa. I was received by a royal salute, and drove down the line, the number of men, including officers, being nearly 600. They were all in their khaki uniform, which seems to be very practical. Colonel Nield, who commands the whole, walked by the side of my carriage. I then returned to the saluting point, and they all marched past, after which they reformed in mass and advanced quite close to my carriage. I then addressed them in the following words : “ I have asked you, who have always served near me, to come here that I may take leave of you before you start on your long voyage to a distant part of my Empire, in whose defence your comrades are now so nobly fighting. I know that you will always do your duty to your Sovereign and country wherever that duty may lead you, and I pray God to protect you and bring you back safely home.”

Colonel Nield expressed his thanks for my gracious

¹ See above, pp. 390-1.

words, which would never be forgotten by them all, and I shook hands with him. He then presented all the officers who came by, one by one, including Dolly Teck and the young Duke of Roxburghe. The men were all asked to give three cheers, but they gave many more and would hardly stop. The royal salute followed once more, and as I drove away the men again cheered loudly.

12th Nov.—Saw Lord Lansdowne, and talked over everything with him. Lord Lansdowne spoke kindly of Sir G. White, of the Reserves, and what was being done for the wives and families, of the sad losses, in fact, of everything connected with the war. Emily A[mphill], Lord and Lady Lansdowne, Victoria G[rant], Bessie B[iddulph], Sir Frank Lascelles, Lord Clarendon, the Bishop of Ripon, and Sir A. Bigge dined. Lady Lansdowne talked a good deal to me about the different poor ladies, about poor Lady Symons, who had been ready to go out to her husband, thinking he would recover, about Lady Louisa Egerton and the loss of her son, of the many who had sent out only sons and more than one, including herself. Sir F. Lascelles spoke of William's approaching visit, and hoped all would go off well.

13th Nov.—Every moment telegrams keep coming, announcing the arrival of troops at the Cape. It is very encouraging. After tea I saw Lord Wolseley for some little time. We went over everything concerning the war. He said he felt much easier now, but had been very anxious ten days ago. He was sure Lady-smith would be able to hold out. He was delighted at the way in which the Reserves had come up, as well as the way in which the employers had helped in furnishing the men. We lamented bitterly over the loss of so many horses, and I made him promise to see that everything possible was done in the ships for their safety and comfort. But it is at best a great risk transporting so many such a great distance by sea. Talked of the wonderful subscriptions and help being set on foot everywhere in the country. After Lord

Wolseley, I saw Lord Salisbury. I thought him better than I had expected. We talked of most things, the settlement of the Samoa affair with Germany, which was a great thing.

16th Nov.¹—Saw Mr. Chamberlain just before dinner. He seemed very hopeful about the prospects of the war, but had received an unpleasant telegram with the news that an armoured train had been wrecked with 120 casualties. With regard to the Press abroad, he deeply regretted the violent line it has taken up against the war. He expressed his satisfaction at the settlement of Samoa.

19th Nov.—On coming home saw Lady White, wife of Sir George White, who is besieged in Ladysmith. She said my sympathy had been her greatest comfort, and she knew it would be the same to her husband. After tea had a long talk with the Bishop of Winchester on Church affairs.

The Earl of Minto to Queen Victoria.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA, 12th November 1899.

MADAM,—I feel sure your Majesty would like to hear of the departure of your Majesty's Canadian troops for South Africa. The contingent, as your Majesty knows, sailed from Quebec on the 30th October. The detachments composing it had been gathered from all parts of Canada, even from the Pacific coast, and were all assembled in Quebec by Saturday, the 28th, a large proportion of them being quartered in the Citadel, and I went to my own quarters there to see them off. The Citadel, and the city of Quebec, and all its surroundings are so picturesque, and so full of historical associations, that it would be impossible to imagine a place better suited for such a *rendezvous*. On Sunday there was service for the troops in the Cathedral, some 400 remaining for the sacrament, and the singing in which the whole congregation joined, quite beautiful. That

¹ On the previous day the Queen had gone by train to Bristol, where she was enthusiastically received, in order to open at Clifton a Convalescent hospital built to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee.

evening I gave a dinner in the Citadel to the senior officers of the contingent, the Lieut.-Governor, the Mayor, and others, and on Monday the troops assembled on the Esplanade for inspection before marching down to the *Sardinian*.

The Esplanade where the troops were drawn up is just inside the walls of the town, close to the St. Louis Gate, which is the main gate leading up to the Plains of Abraham; the ramparts were densely crowded with people, and it was a lovely day, with a beautiful view of the hills beyond the St. Lawrence in the background. I inspected the troops, and then addressed them as representing your Majesty, and called for three cheers for your Majesty. It was one of the most impressive sights I ever witnessed. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and General Hutton also spoke, and the Mayor read a long but very good address, in French and English; the contingent then marched down to the *Sardinian*, and sailed about 4 p.m. in the midst of wild enthusiasm and a salute of thirty-one guns from the Citadel. The material of the contingent is excellent, and the senior officers are carefully selected and capable.

But I can assure your Majesty that the despatch of the Canadian troops has been surrounded by political difficulties, and their being offered is due alone to the enthusiastically expressed wish of the people of Canada, which the Government submitted to with a very bad grace. . . . Your Majesty's humble and obedient servant, MINTO.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 20th Nov. 1899.—Just before two, William and Dona arrived, Bertie, Arthur, and Georgie driving with him, and Lenchen, Beatrice, and Louischen driving with her. William embraced me most affectionately, and Dona presented her two boys, August Wilhelm and Oscar. I then took them for a moment to the Audience-room, before going in to luncheon, to which George Cambridge and Lorne came. Alix, Lenchen, etc., took William and Dona to

their rooms afterwards. Drove with Alix and May. Had tea with William and Dona and Bertie and Alix in the Audience-room.

Heard afterwards that poor Lady Salisbury had died. I was greatly shocked, though I knew she was in a hopeless condition.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.
[Telegram.]

HATFIELD, 20th Nov. 1899.—My dear wife died this afternoon from failure of heart's action. She suffered no pain as far as we could see. I trust your Majesty will excuse me during this week. SALISBURY.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 21st Nov. 1899.—Darling Vicky's birthday. God grant that she may yet be long spared to us, but her health makes me very anxious. The accounts of dear Marie L[einingen] are very bad, and leave one little hope. William went out shooting. He had already been out riding quite early. Louise and Lorne arrived for luncheon. Drove with Dona and Alix. It was very foggy.

William came to me after tea, which Bertie and Louise had taken with me. I had a long interesting conversation with him on all subjects. We first spoke about his dear Mama's health, which is not satisfactory, then of the shocking tone of the German Press and the shameful attacks on England, as well as monstrous misrepresentations and lies about the war, which he greatly deplores. But he says it is due to the "poison" which Bismarck poured into the ears of the people; that the latter had hated England, and wished for an alliance with Russia. If he had not sent him away, he does not know what would have happened, and he became even worse latterly in his abuse, which his son continued. William himself wishes for a better understanding with us.

There was a banquet in St. George's Hall, which looked very handsome. We sat down 144. Bertie

gave out the healths of William and Dona, which was followed by mine, proposed by William, after which followed dear Vicky's, proposed by Bertie. We went into the Reception-room, and I spoke to a number of the guests, including the Ambassadors, the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, Lord and Lady Lansdowne, Lord Wolseley, Lord Roberts, etc. The last news of dear Marie L[einingen] were as bad as possible. It was all very painful for me.

22nd Nov.—As soon as I got up Beatrice came to me with the sad, though not unexpected, news that beloved Marie L[einingen] had passed away during the night. She was my most dear and intimate friend, as well as beloved niece, an angel of goodness, in whom I could always confide. Her dear visits were such a pleasure and comfort to me, and she was always ready to come when I needed a companion. She was with me when my darling Albert was taken from me.¹ I feel so terribly for poor Ernest and Alberta. Beatrice and Louischen breakfasted with me. Everyone so deeply grieved. Receiving many telegrams and letters. Out with Beatrice and Victoria of Wales. In the afternoon drove with William and his two charming boys. Foggy and dull all day.

Mr. Balfour came to see William, being unable to dine on account of his aunt Lady Salisbury's death. I saw him afterwards, and he seemed much pleased with his interview. Spoke of his uncle, and he said he felt sure any idea of his retiring from public life was quite out of the question. Dined alone with Ismay S[outhampton] and Victoria G[rant] on account of dear Marie. Saw Sir J. Fullerton a moment in the corridor, as he was such a friend of dear Marie's. Spoke also a little about the new yacht. Arthur and Beatrice came to wish me good night.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

HATFIELD HOUSE, 22nd Nov. 1899.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty most gratefully acknow-

¹ See Second Series, vol. i, p. 5.

ledges the kind and sympathetic words of your Majesty's very gracious letter. He is deeply touched with the language your Majesty has used as to his beloved wife, and as to the deep affection which has subsisted between her and him and their children.

We shall deeply cherish and preserve the expression of your Majesty's fervent sympathy for us in our deep sorrow.

I am deeply grateful to the Princess Henry for her kind message.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 23rd Nov. 1899.—William and the gentlemen of the family went out shooting in the park. Dona, Beatrice, and Louischen walked with me. Took her to the Mausoleum. Feo Gleichen came to luncheon. Drove with Alix and Louise. Still the same dull weather.

Rather anxious about what may be happening in the Transvaal, as we know that Lord Methuen is advancing, and one dreads his being intercepted by the Boers.

Saw Count Bülow for some little time after tea, and was much pleased with him. He spoke most sensibly and kindly, and appeared much distressed at the bad feeling in Germany against us, which I said was really most unfair and unreasonable, in which he quite agreed. He was in despair about the Press, which he said was most difficult to control, and spoke, just as William did, of the immense harm Bismarck had done by using all his influence to promote a bad feeling towards England and seek a close alliance with Russia, when it ought to be just the reverse. He spoke with the greatest attachment of Vicky, and how much she wished for a good understanding between Germany and England. Dined in the big Dining-room with my guests, as I felt it my duty to do, but there was no music. Sat in the Red Drawing-room afterwards, and spoke to some of the people.

24th Nov.—Less foggy, but still no sunshine.

Alix and Victoria left for Sandringham to prepare for William's visit there. To-day dear Marie L[einingen] was laid to rest [at] Waldleiningen. I had a short service in the Chapel at eleven, which was very touching and beautiful, and to which all the family, including William and Dona, came. He afterwards went with Bertie and Arthur to Blenheim, returning in the afternoon. Went out for a short while with Dona and Beatrice.

William came to see me quite late, and further discussed several of the topics we had mentioned in our last conversation. We spoke again about a good understanding between our two countries being most desirable, and he promised to do all he could to promote it. As regards Samoa, the settlement of which was such a great thing, he said it really was a "sentiment" on the part of Germany, and that there was a great deal of this in her feelings, which was misunderstood here. William praised Sir F. Lascelles very much, and said what a fine position he had made for himself, and how much he was liked, also Emma Cavendish.¹ Dinner like yesterday. Edward Saxe-Weimar came, whom I have not seen for a long time, as he has been ill for over a year. Did not talk long after dinner, as there was some music for William—a Welsh Choir, which sang quite beautifully.

Received the following report from Lord Methuen about the battle of Belmont, which took place yesterday: "Wounded going on well. Over 50 prisoners taken, including German Commandant and 6 Field Cornets. Unable to estimate Boer losses; prisoners say yesterday's attack was a surprise, and the only beating they have had. A large amount of correspondence secured. Reservists have done well. Colonel Pole-Carew replaces Fetherstonhaugh in command of the 9th Brigade."

¹ Lady Edward Cavendish, widow of Lord Edward Cavendish and mother of the present Duke of Devonshire, was Sir Frank Lascelles' sister; and, now that Lady Lascelles was dead, was acting as hostess at the British Embassy in Berlin.

25th Nov.—Breakfasted all together in the Oak-room. At about three William and Dona took leave of me, evidently very pleased with their visit. They would not let me go downstairs. Louise, Beatrice, and Lenchen saw them off at the station.

Received to-day the great and satisfactory news from Lord Cromer and Lord Kitchener himself that Sir R. Wingate had had a big engagement with the Khalifa. The Dervishes were completely defeated, and the Khalifa was killed, with a great many of his Emirs. This, I hope, means the end of Mahdism, and I think it is far the best way it could end.

[Telegram.] *Lord Kitchener to Queen Victoria.*

KHARTOUM, 25th Nov. 1899.—Lord Kitchener presents his humble duty, and begs to thank your Majesty for the gracious message received, which he has transmitted to Sir R. Wingate. All the wounded are well cared for and doing well, with one exception. The Khalifa's remains were respectfully buried by the survivors of his bodyguard. Sir R. Wingate reports having taken nine thousand men, women, and children. SIRDAR.

The German Emperor and Empress to Queen Victoria.
[Telegram.]

SANDRINGHAM, 26th Nov. 1899.—We arrived, after a pleasant journey, at Sandringham. Had a nice evening with music, and are now going to Church. We thank you once more, dear Grandmama, for all your kindness. We shall always look back with pleasure to our stay at Windsor. WILLIAM, VICTORIA.

[Telegram.] *The Duke of York to Queen Victoria.*

LIVERPOOL STREET RAIL., 28th Nov. 1899.—Have just taken leave of William and Dona at Port Victoria. They wished me to again express to you how grateful they were for all your kindness, and how delighted they have been with their visit to England.

I am just returning to Sandringham. GEORGE.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 29th Nov. 1899.—At a quarter to twelve drove to the Infantry Barracks with Lenchen and Beatrice, Thora and Louise following with Ismay S[outhampton], the equerries on horseback. The battalion of Grenadiers was drawn up without arms. I drove down the line, and then they formed up near my carriage. I addressed them as follows: "I wish to congratulate you on the splendid conduct of the Brigade of Guards. I am very proud of them, but I grieve very much for the sad losses, and hope the wounded will recover well." After this they moved off, having given three cheers. They were all very fine men and wearing the Soudan medal. All the wives of the Grenadiers, as well as of the Life Guards and Reservists, were brought up for me to see, and I said how much I felt for them, and hoped their husbands might come home safely. Many of them were crying bitterly. There were a great many babies. I am glad to say they are all being very kindly looked after.

[*Extract.*] *Lady Edward Churchill to Miss Cochrane.*

2nd Dec. 1899.—. . . Never was anything more appreciated [the Queen's visit to the Barracks]; they were so unselfish, several said to me, "It is hard for her [the Queen] to have all this to bear." One came back and repeated, "The Queen said she was sorry for us, and she *was*; tears were in her eyes, God bless her."

Two with babies hung back and did not go up with the rest. I went and asked why. "We should like to go, but don't think we ought, because my husband's active service hasn't begun, he only left this morning," one replied sobbing; and the other, "My husband is up at the front, but he's only in the Ambulance Corps, and it ain't quite so dangerous." Needless to say, they both went up to the carriage.

One rather rough woman on returning said to the rest: "Well, I hope my husband won't be killed, but our Queen is worth fighting for."

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

COLONIAL OFFICE, 1st Dec. 1899.—Mr. Chamberlain presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and begs to submit for your Majesty's approval the name of Sir Ralph Moor, K.C.M.G., to be High Commissioner of Southern Nigeria; and that of Colonel Frederick John Dealtry Lugard,¹ C.B., D.S.O., to be High Commissioner of Northern Nigeria.

Arrangements which will shortly be submitted for the approval of your Majesty in Council have been made for taking over from the Royal Niger Co., on the 1st January next, the administration of their territories in West Africa, and it is proposed that the Southern portion of these territories should be added to the Niger Coast Protectorate to form a new Protectorate of Southern Nigeria; while the Northern portion will in future be known as the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria.

Sir Ralph Moor has been since 1889 your Majesty's Commissioner and Consul-General for the Niger Coast Protectorate, and is an able officer who may be relied on to carry out effectively the increased duties which will devolve upon him.

Colonel Lugard is an officer of great distinction and experience in African affairs. He has served both in East and West Africa, and is well fitted in Mr. Chamberlain's opinion to fill the post for which his name is now humbly submitted to your Majesty.

[*Telegrams.*] *Lord Methuen to Queen Victoria.*

MODDER RIVER, 1st Dec. 1899.—The division thanks your Majesty for your gracious message.

The victory was entirely due to the gallant conduct of the troops, and considering the strength of the position, I am thankful the loss was not greater, many of the casualties being slight. Count Gleichen progressing favourably.

2nd Dec.—In reply to your Majesty's gracious

¹ Now Lord Lugard.

enquiry, I shall be fit for duty 6th December. The wounded are by now at Wynberg doing well, the health of the troops excellent, and the whole Division in high spirits because of your Majesty's many kind enquiries.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Sir Arthur Bigge.

WAR OFFICE, 3rd December 1899.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—Your note of yesterday. I think it quite possible that her Majesty's supposition is correct, and that Buller at some moments takes an "over-gloomy" view of the situation. But it is undoubtedly full of anxiety, and a reverse at any point might have serious consequences.

As to troops, we are preparing the Sixth Division as fast as we can. Buller has, you will observe, only said that it may be wanted if the opposition continues, but we shall assume that he *will* want it. If more still are required, or likely to be required, we have told him that he can have a seventh division. We have also telegraphed to him explaining how we propose to meet his request for heavy guns. We had fortunately already put 4·7 guns in hand, and some howitzer batteries should be arriving at this moment.

I am afraid the proposal to blockade Delagoa Bay presents great political difficulties. Mr. Balfour, with whom I discussed this matter yesterday, went to Hatfield in the evening, and was to ascertain Lord Salisbury's views. Yours sincerely, LANSDOWNE.

Sir Reginald Wingate to Sir Arthur Bigge.

CAIRO, Sunday, 3rd December 1899.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—I have been so rushed that the long letter I intended to write to you must be postponed for a few days, and this is only a line to catch the post to tell you how deeply grateful I am for the Queen's most gracious and highly prized telegrams. I cannot tell you how honoured I felt by her Majesty's most gracious words. The first telegram reached me as I was riding back to the river from the Khalifa's camp, and I at once sent it on to Lewis to publish to

the troops. Indeed, the Queen's deep solicitude for us and the interest she has taken in all that has happened has gratified and rejoiced us all more than I can express. You have, my dear old friend, been the interpreter so often of my ill-expressed sentiments, that I would ask you once more to offer my most humble duty and deep gratitude to her Majesty.

The Sirdar also showed me the telegram from the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and I beg you will offer to them also my heartfelt thanks.

The way the whole of the dervishes fell into our hands makes me feel as the Arabs say—that their day had come, and that it was arranged by Higher Powers than us poor mortals! I little dreamt, when I left the river to hunt Fedil, that three days later the Khalifa and all his Emirs would be either killed or prisoners in our hands.

The troops, officers and men, behaved splendidly, and played up to a man in spite of incessant night marching, scarcity of water, and little or no rest; there was never a murmur, and no Commander could have been [more] loyally supported than I was, but I must tell you all about it later. The official report to the S[ecretary of] S[tate] for War goes home to-day, and you will no doubt see it. I am more than grateful to the Sirdar for having given me this chance. I hustled back because of an impending domestic event, and on my arrival at Khartoum last Sunday I was apprised by wire that my wife in Cairo had presented me with a small daughter, born the day after the fight. Do you not think I might call her "Victoria"? The Queen's second telegram after the victory came almost at the same time.

Please offer my most humble duty and homage to her Majesty, and with all kind remembrances to you and Lady Bigge, ever yours, F. R. WINGATE.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 4th Dec. 1899.—I received the American surgeons and nurses who are going out to

South Africa in the hospital ship, which the American ladies in England have fitted out.

Mr. Goschen to Sir Arthur Bigge.

Confidential. ADMIRALTY, WHITEHALL, 7th December 1899.

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—As to the Naval Brigades sent inland : I can assure you that I quite agree with the feelings of her Majesty on the subject of the employment of bluejackets so far from the base, and the Admiralty and Admiral Harris at Cape Town have been anxious to keep the landing of our men within the narrow limits. But the pressure has been too great. The emergency was so serious, especially before the arrival of the mass of our troops, that the Admiral could not refuse to comply with the urgent applications of the military authorities, and even when more troops came, it appears to have been thought that the services of a Naval Brigade could not be spared.

Concurrently with this, I have no doubt that the pressure of naval officers to be allowed to go to the front was extreme, their enthusiastic desire to be allowed to see some fighting was doubtless fostered by their remembering the part taken by Naval Brigades in India, the Crimea, and indeed generally where fighting has been prolonged. I have seen a furious letter from Captain Lambton¹ when, on the *first* Naval Brigade being sent inland, he was not allowed by the Admiral to take command. "To rot here in inactivity," and the like.

But with all this, my naval colleagues and myself fully realise the drawbacks, the temporary disablement of ships and loss of life amongst a body of highly trained sailors, whose services are so invaluable, which follow from sending them to fight inland.

Yesterday we had a telegram from the Admiral, saying that General Buller had asked for eight more naval 4·7 guns with men to man them. At such a moment, when so much depends upon the weight of

¹ Afterwards Admiral Sir Hedworth Meux.

the blow to be struck, how could we refuse? Yours sincerely, GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Mr. Asquith to Sir Arthur Bigge.

20 CAVENDISH SQUARE, 9th December 1899.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR BIGGE,—The Bishop of Winchester has been good enough to transmit to me your kind letter of the 7th to him, conveying her Majesty's gracious approval of opinions recently expressed by me on the subject of the war.¹

If a fit opportunity should present itself, I should be greatly obliged to you if you could make her Majesty aware of my profound and humble acknowledgment of this most welcome recognition of my sincere and strongly felt sentiments. Believe me, yours very faithfully, H. H. ASQUITH.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

WINDSOR CASTLE, 9th Dec. 1899.—Thanks for your letter. You do not mention the Blockade of Delagoa Bay which Sir R. Buller again urges so strongly. Think everything should be done to shorten the war and prevent the loss of life, which is so distressing.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

10th Dec. 1899.—Humble duty. We are communicating with General Buller as to blockade of Delagoa Bay. It is an accepted rule of international law that a State cannot blockade any port unless it declares war on the country to whom the port belongs. If we blockaded Delagoa Bay without declaring war on Portugal, France, Germany, and America would refuse to allow us to stop their ships. Blockade is therefore impossible; but we hope to attain the same results by carefully searching every vessel that comes in for contraband of war.

¹ In her Journal for 26th November the Queen recorded that one of her ladies had read to her "a very fine patriotic speech of Mr. Asquith's."

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 10th Dec. 1899.—Got the news of what General Gatacre calls a "serious reverse."¹ He says he was misled as to the position of the enemy, and has had to retire with loss. It is most deplorable.

11th Dec.—Saw Sir A. Bigge on his return from London, whither he has gone by my desire to see Lord Wolseley and Lord Lansdowne, and found the latter depressed and the former much annoyed with the Generals, who he considers have not done what they were advised to do, but have attacked difficult and inaccessible positions, instead of trying to outflank the enemy. Lord Wolseley wanted to know what I thought about it all.

We also discussed whether Bertie should resign the Presidency of the French Exhibition, on account of the atrocious personal attacks on me in the French Press. He is himself most indignant, and only wishes to do what I desire. But I have not yet decided what it would be advisable to do in the matter.

12th Dec.—Saw Mr. Balfour before dinner. Talked of almost everything of importance, especially about the French Exhibition and Bertie's position. Lord Salisbury was of opinion it would be better for him not to resign the Presidency, as the Government was friendly towards us, and Bertie had accepted the post by their invitation and with the approval of our Government.

13th Dec.—Received the annexed distressing telegram, of another unsuccessful engagement² with heavy loss. Went to the Mausoleum and took a turn in Frogmore garden. In the afternoon drove with Cecilia D. and Judy H. When I came home heard, to my great regret, that General Wauchope, who commanded the Highland Brigade, and whom I knew very well, was killed in this unfortunate engagement of Lord Methuen's. Feel very anxious.

14th Dec.—Already thirty-eight years since that

¹ At Stormberg

² The battle of Magersfontein.

dreadful catastrophe which crushed and changed my life, and deprived me of my guardian angel, the best of husbands and most noble of men! The news in the papers is very sad, and there is a confirmation of the report of Lord Winchester's and Colonel Downman's deaths, the latter a very nice man, who commanded the Gordon Highlanders, and had dined with me at Balmoral in September, after Bertie had given colours to the regiment. Received a list of the casualties. The Highlanders lost awfully, but I am glad young Freddie Kerr, who commanded my guard, and of whom I took leave at Ballater, escaped. Feel very low and anxious about the war.

Viscount Wolseley to Sir Arthur Bigge.

WAR OFFICE, 14th December 1899.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—. . . Generals, like poets, are "born, not made." I can only send out the best men I know of. Subject to her Majesty's approval, I have selected Colonel MacDonald, who distinguished himself at Omdurman and saved Kitchener during his final advance upon that place, to command the Highland Brigade *vice* my poor dear friend Wauchope, the bravest and best of soldiers, and the firmest of friends. In him the Queen has lost one of her most loyal and faithful of subjects. His place is Niddrie, near Edinburgh, and his poor wife is now there. I telegraphed to her father to break the news to her. She was a very pretty woman, and the most devoted of wives.

The 5th Division has now *all* left, and I begin with the 6th Division on Saturday, when and on Sunday one brigade will be on board, the other brigade to follow as soon as ships are ready. The 7th Division will be at once mobilised and prepared for embarkation, and I hope will be sent off quickly. For every battalion we mobilise a battalion of Militia is called out, so we shall soon have a very large force of Militia under arms. As each battalion so mobilised receives from 200 to 300 regulars into it, these battalions are strong, and will soon be made efficient. As soon as the 7th

Division embarks we call out the 8th Division ; after that we can do little except by sending Militia battalions abroad to take the place now occupied by Line battalions, and in that way freeing enough battalions of the Line to form a 9th Division in England.

What we are now most in want of is good Generals. . . .

I have many young men coming on, but the old-fashioned lot who were promoted by seniority before I came into office are mostly poor creatures as regards knowledge of war. Very sincerely yours, WOLSELEY.

I wish I were in South Africa myself. Our Army all over the world is not strong enough for the work it has to do and the responsibilities it has to fulfil.

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to Sir Redvers Buller.*

WINDSOR CASTLE, 15th Dec. 1899.—The Queen thanks Sir Redvers Buller for his interesting letter of the 7th November.

We are naturally terribly anxious, and the sad events of the last days grieved us very much. She fears there have been so many rash and dangerous night marches. Many valuable lives have been lost, and we are all deeply grieved and troubled for our near and dear ones.

But the Queen Empress has great confidence in Sir R. Buller, and she feels sure that he will retrieve the sad failures of brave men, but who seem, alas ! not to have been [as] wise and prudent as they ought ? As for the Queen's dear brave soldiers, she is proud of them, and the loss of so many lives is a real grief to her.

May God protect Sir Redvers and those with him, and give us good news !

The Queen had the pleasure of seeing Lady Audrey on the 12th, who is doing admirable work among the soldiers' families.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 16th Dec. 1899.—It was foggy early, but then became very fine. When I came to breakfast received very sad and disappointing news

of Sir R. Buller having been unable to cross the Tugela river, and having been obliged to abandon 10 guns.¹ We could think of little else. To our great satisfaction heard Christle was "well and fit, after a very trying day." Received a very unsatisfactory telegram from the War Office, sent by Sir R. Buller from Chieveley Camp, 15th December, 11.15 p.m., saying the following :

My failure to-day raises a serious question. Do not think I am strong enough now to relieve White. Colenso is a fortress, which, if not taken in a rush, could only be taken by siege. No water within 8 miles of point of attack, and in this weather that exhausts infantry. Place fully entrenched. Not a Boer or a gun seen by us all day, but fire brought to bear was very heavy. Our infantry quite willing to fight, but absolutely exhausted by great heat. My view is, I ought to let Ladysmith go, and let time help by getting a good position for defence of S. Natal. Consider we were in face of 20,000 men to-day, who had advantage both in arms and position. They admit having suffered severely, but my men have not seen a dead Boer, which dispirits them. My losses not very heavy; could have made them heavier, but result would have been the same. The moment I failed to get on the rim, I was beaten. Feel now I cannot relieve Ladysmith with my available force, and best thing I can suggest is to occupy defensive position and fight it out in a country better suited to our tactics.

Talked for a long time to Sir A. Bigge about this telegram, and desired him to cypher to Lord Lansdowne that I thought it was quite impossible to abandon Ladysmith. When I returned to my room [after dinner] Sir A. Bigge came in to read a letter which had just come from Lord Lansdowne. This explained that the Government had not for a moment thought of agreeing to that proposal about Ladysmith. He enclosed a copy of the answer which has been sent to Sir R. Buller, after consultation with Lord Wolseley.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Sir Redvers Buller.
[Cypher Telegram.]

WAR OFFICE, 16th Dec. 1899.—Your telegram No. 87 cypher. Her Majesty's Government regard aban-

¹The battle of Colenso.

donment and consequent surrender of White's force as a national disaster of the greatest magnitude. We would urge you to devise another attempt to relieve it, not necessarily by way of Colenso, making use, if you think well, of additional troops now arriving in South Africa.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 17th Dec. 1899.—Saw Sir A. Bigge shortly before dinner. He had seen both Lord Lansdowne and Lord Wolsley, also Bertie. He said there had been a Cabinet yesterday, at which the feeling had been unanimous that Ladysmith should on no account be given up. They had been much astonished at the proposal. Sir R. Buller had telegraphed rather crossly to Lord Wolseley for having suggested Sir G. White should come out and help him, saying that if he thought so he had better come out and do it himself.

Sir A. Bigge then said he had something to tell me, which would surprise me, *viz.* that at yesterday's Cabinet it had been decided to send out Lord Roberts, and Lord Kitchener as Chief of his Staff, and they knew they would be ready to go, but they had not yet told Lord Wolseley!! This latter I thought very extraordinary, but also very wrong that they had not told me first. It is not intended to supersede Sir Redvers, but it is too much for him, and it is therefore thought advisable to have another General of very high rank to direct the whole.

Have settled not to leave for Osborne till after Christmas, owing to the present state of affairs. Desired Sir A. Bigge to write to Lord Lansdowne my approval of the two appointments, though at the same time my surprise at the way in which the whole thing has been done. Cecilia D[owne], Victoria G[rant], the Dean and Mary Eliot, Colonel Legge, Colonel Davidson, and Mr. Arthur Benson dined. The latter is the son of the late Archbishop, and Charlie was in his house at Eton.

Viscount Wolseley to Sir Arthur Bigge.

WAR OFFICE, LONDON, S.W., 17th December 1899. 6 p.m.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—I have just returned from seeing Lord Lansdowne, who told me that the Defence Committee of the Cabinet which sat yesterday decided to send out Lord Roberts as C.-in-C. to the Cape of Good Hope, with Lord Kitchener as his Chief of the Staff.

In justice to myself I think the Queen should know that this decision has been arrived at without any reference to me or any previous knowledge on my part that it was in contemplation. I can only add that, whilst I deeply regret the supersession of Buller, whom I consider by far the most fitted of our Generals to deal with the present military situation in South Africa, I realise that the Government must recommend to her Majesty what in their judgment is best.

And whilst I feel strongly the fact that such an important military step has been taken without any consultation with me as Commander-in-Chief, the Queen may rest assured that at the present crisis I shall allow no personal considerations to interfere with my endeavour to serve her and the nation as best I may. Believe me to be, very sincerely yours,
WOLSELEY.

Sir Reginald Wingate to Sir Arthur Bigge.

CAIRO, 15th December 1899.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—It is impossible for me to express to you with what feeling of heartfelt gratitude and devotion my wife and I read that most gracious message in which her Majesty has so highly honoured us and our little daughter.

I do not imagine any Sovereign in the world is so dearly loved and honoured as our Queen, and it is by such gracious acts as these that she so endears herself to her humble subjects. Cairo, as you know, is full of foreigners, and many of them are far from Anglo-phile, but when the Queen's gracious solicitude in becoming the godmother of our small "Victoria

Catherine " became known, it seemed to bring home to them how deep-rooted and genuine is the affection (if I may use the term) of her subjects for our most beloved Queen; and many a foreigner said to me, "Now we can understand how it is that your Queen is so beloved; it is by such kind and thoughtful acts that she has become, so to speak, part of the lives of her people." You can imagine what a delight it is to hear such remarks, for one longs to prove to these people, who are so constantly criticising our actions and whose ideas are so republican, that the strength of England is the loyalty and devotion of its people to her most gracious Majesty. I long to pour out my heart in feelings of the deepest gratitude for this most highly prized favour. The good news has done more than anything else to hasten my wife's recovery, and it is such an inexpressible joy to us both to feel that we are so honoured in actually having the Queen as our little daughter's godmother, that we can scarcely realise our good fortune; and I beg you once more, my dear Bigge, to lay at her Majesty's feet my most humble devotion and gratitude for a favour which I appreciate more than anything which could have befallen me. . . .

I expect all this South African trouble is giving you a great deal of work, and I do trust our beloved Queen is not feeling greatly distressed; all is sure to come right in the end. . . . Ever yours, F. R. WINGATE.

Sir Charles Scott to Sir Arthur Bigge.

ST. PETERSBURG, 17th December 1899.

DEAR BIGGE,—I safely received your letter of the 11th on the 15th inst., and I had an opportunity to-day of delivering the Queen's letter in person to the Emperor, who was graciously pleased to grant me audience at Tsarskoe.

His Imperial Majesty said that he would send his reply to the Queen's letter to me for safe transmission through the Embassy.

He was greatly pleased by the kind messages to

himself and the Empress with which the Queen had charged me, and spoke with deep feeling of his devotion to her Majesty, and of his sincere sympathy and friendly feelings in this hour of trial. Yours very truly, CHARLES S. SCOTT.¹

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 18th Dec. 1899.—Heard with deep regret that Lord Roberts's son, who had been dangerously wounded,² has died. He was his poor parents' only son, a very distinguished young man.

Saw Mr. Balfour, whom I had sent for, before dinner. He expressed very great regret and astonishment that the appointments of Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener had not been submitted to me first. What had compelled the Cabinet to do what it had done was the fact that their confidence in Sir Redvers Buller had been somewhat shaken by his extraordinary proposal to abandon Ladysmith, which was too awful to contemplate.

Talked over the war in general, the mistakes that had been made, and the Generals; of Lord Roberts's extraordinary activity and good health.³ Mr. Balfour said that the feeling in the country was quite wonderful, everybody volunteering to go out. There was a

¹ Simultaneously Sir Charles Scott had sent a despatch to Lord Salisbury, in which he said:

"The Emperor gave me lengthened audience to-day, and expressed his deepest sympathy with the Queen and nation on the losses sustained by our brave troops. He desired the Queen to be assured that he was animated by the most friendly feelings to us in this hour of trial, and that nothing was farther from his thoughts than to take any advantage of our difficulties or to countenance any step likely to increase them. He begged her Majesty's Government to discredit entirely any reports of Russian projects likely in any way to conflict with our interests, and he deplored the hostile tone of the Russian Press, and said he hoped to effect a change in its tone. His Majesty said that he knew of no question between our two countries which was not either satisfactorily settled, or in the way of settlement, and Russia had no object in raising any new question. His Ministers had correctly interpreted his views when assuring me that there ought to be no conflict of interests between us anywhere impossible of settlement, as he desired frank and friendly discussion and exchange of confidence."

² At the battle of Colenso.

³ He was sixty-seven.

certain number of people who had bought up all the Australian horses they could get to send them out to South Africa at their own expense.

He told me he had had a very satisfactory conversation with Count Pückler, who insisted on seeing him himself, and conveyed the following message from Count Bülow, that his speech had been misinterpreted, and that he wished to assure our Government that he (Count B.) was most anxious to be on the best of terms with England, and that the German Government would never tolerate any combination against England.¹

[*Telegram.*] *Lord and Lady Roberts to Queen Victoria.*

KINGSBRIDGE, DUBLIN, 18th Dec. 1899.—We are both deeply grateful for your Majesty's gracious telegrams and highly valued sympathy. Our loss is grievous, but our boy died the death he would have chosen. LORD AND LADY ROBERTS.

Mr. Goschen to Sir Arthur Bigge.

WHITEHALL, ADMIRALTY, 19th December 1899.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR BIGGE,—The Queen may rest assured that everything that can be done is being done, regardless of cost, to secure as fast ships as are suitable for the service, and are available for the transport of reinforcements to the Cape, and to make such arrangements as involve the least possible delay. This is, and has been, my chief anxiety during the past week.

The Press from the beginning set up an incorrect and impossible standard for the time in which transports could reach the Cape, taking the fastest trip of the fastest ship under the best conditions, instead of an average of what good and available and suitable ships could do.

You cannot run 7,000 miles continuously at as uni-

¹ It is of this conversation between Queen Victoria and Mr. Balfour that Lady Gwendolen Cecil, in her *Life of Lord Salisbury* (vol. iii, p. 191), tells the story that her Majesty cut short her Minister's opening references to the disasters of the "black week" by saying: "Please understand that there is no one depressed in *this* house; we are not interested in the possibilities of defeat; they do not exist."

form and high a speed as you can cross the Atlantic; nor are *all* the fastest ships so constructed as to be able to carry what we want. There are considerations of coaling capacity, too, to be reckoned with.

I only make these remarks in case the Queen's message to me should have been occasioned by any impression on her Majesty's part that we at the Admiralty had not been as keenly alive as anybody else to the immense importance of the rapid despatch of troops. It is a much more difficult process than the public imagine.

When the bill comes to be paid, it will be very apparent that no question of cost has played much part in our arrangements. Yours very truly,
GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Viscount Wolseley to Sir Arthur Bigge.

WAR OFFICE, 19th December 1899.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—This is merely a letter to the Queen, thanking her for her gracious letter to me. Believe me to be, very sincerely yours, WOLSELEY.

P.S.—Not a word yet from Buller about his supersession.¹ I do hope he may have won a brilliant victory before Roberts arrives to supersede him.

The Duke of Connaught to Colonel Davidson.

Private.

MELBURY, DORCHESTER, 19th December 1899.

MY DEAR DAVIDSON,—I return you the copy of Lord Wolseley's letter with many thanks. I think it very derogatory to the C.-in-C.'s position that he should never have heard even a word nor been in any way consulted with regard to the important appointment of Lord Roberts to the Command-in-Chief in

¹ Sir Redvers Buller wrote confidentially to Lord Lansdowne from Frere Camp, 20th December:

"If I may be allowed to say so, I entirely agree with the reasons that have guided the action of her Majesty's Government. I have for some time been convinced that it is impossible for any one man to direct active military operations in two places distant 1,500 miles from each other. . . . Lord Lansdowne is kind enough to suggest that the decision may be distasteful to me, but I trust that any decisions intended for the interests of the Empire will always be acceptable to me."

South Africa. The telegram will have told you that I was very much startled at your informing me that the Queen had told Bigge to write to Lord Lansdowne expressing H.M.'s wish that I should be appointed to succeed Lord Roberts in the command in Ireland. I can only imagine that this is wished so as to preclude my going to South Africa. Both Lords Lansdowne and Wolseley are aware of my great wish to be sent out there, as I personally saw the Secretary of State yesterday on the subject, and the C.-in-C. I have seen several times, besides writing to him from Abergeldie and from Bagshot. I also telegraphed to Lord Roberts asking him to support my application. You will readily and fully understand that any home command at the present moment is very distasteful to me. The United Kingdom will be thoroughly denuded of staff and troops, and the importance of a home command at the present moment is nil, and nowhere more so than in Ireland. I have written all this, as I think that both you and Bigge should know what my feelings really are. Believe me, yours very sincerely, ARTHUR.

P.S.—I am very glad that the Queen has made up her mind not to go so far away as Osborne at the present moment.

The Prince of Wales to Sir Arthur Bigge.

HALL BARN, BEACONSFIELD, 19th December 1899.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—Many thanks for sending me Wolseley's letter to read, which is a very proper one. I do not see how the Government could do otherwise than send out Lord Roberts. It will be a popular appointment, though of course it means the supersession of Buller, but the latter has brought it on himself.

I am glad Downe goes out as A.D.C., as it was a great shame leaving him "out in the cold." Lord Kitchener is sure to be most useful, and I suppose Wingate will succeed him as Sirdar.

There is but one opinion that the Queen is so right to remain over Xmas at Windsor. I wish my brother

could go out in some capacity; it will be his military ruin if he does not.

I have kept a key for the despatch boxes. From yours very sincerely, ALBERT EDWARD.

Mr. Balfour to Sir Arthur Bigge.

Confidential. 10 DOWNING STREET, 19th December 1899.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—In the course of my interview with Lord Lansdowne this morning I mentioned the idea of the Duke of Connaught taking the Quartermaster-Generalship while Evelyn Wood went to Ireland. The suggestion was received with something like dismay; and on reflection I think you will agree that Lord Lansdowne's alarm is justified. The most hardly strained wheel in our administrative machine at the present moment is the Quartermaster-General's Department. It is responsible for feeding a great army 7,000 miles from its base; and with each increase of that army the difficulties increase also. I am told that the present occupant of the office is doing extremely well, but to dispossess him at the present juncture, and to bring in a man who, however able, must learn his business, would be to run a very grave, and quite unnecessary, risk. If a breakdown occurs anywhere, it will probably be in this department. Do not let us increase the risk of so serious a catastrophe.

As regards Ireland, the Prime Minister writes to me that he thinks the Duke would make an excellent appointment; but please do not mention this until Lord Lansdowne has had time to consider the matter. Personally, I hope he may come to the same conclusion. Yours sincerely, ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR.

[Telegram.] *Sir Redvers Buller to Queen Victoria.*

FRERE CAMP, 20th Dec. 1899.—The gracious message of your Majesty is being conveyed individually to all wounded. All wounded officers are progressing favourably, and other wounded doing well, with two or three exceptions, who are holding their own. All wounded are extremely comfortable, and are accom-

modated in well-equipped permanent hospitals and hospital ships. GENERAL BULLER.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 20th Dec. 1899.—Saw Sir A. Bigge on his return from London, where I had sent him to go to the War Office, and also to see Lord Wolseley. Both he and Lord Lansdowne, as well as Lord Salisbury, say it is quite impossible to allow Arthur to go to South Africa. I have urged it as much as I could, feeling what a laudable wish it was on his part, though naturally I should have felt it intensely. I agreed that Sir A. Bigge should write this to both Bertie and Arthur.

The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.

NEUES PALAIS, 21st December 1899.

MOST BELOVED GRANDMAMA,—With my heart yet full of gratitude for the lovely days spent at Windsor, and still under the charm of all the kindly impressions, I venture to disturb your precious time with these lines. May God bless you and protect you in the coming year as He has done up to now! May He allay fears, care, and sorrow which will visit even your August Person as best He knows, for it is He who sent them! May He alleviate the burden of anxiety which is now resting on your shoulder, and may He help to find a way for your wisdom to bring everything to a good and peaceful issue! "Peace and goodwill among men" sang the angels once, and it seems sometimes difficult for the latter to live up to these grand and simple words! I am afraid that in many a home in England Xmas will be a sad one, but I hope that in the Xmas week there will be no urgency for fighting, and that perhaps a ray of hope for the finding of a means to finish may be found in the holidays of the week. The loss of so many officers and men is most distressing, and deeply do I feel for those they left behind. But at all events the British aristocracy have shown the world that they know how to die doing their duty, like the other gentlemen!

From Mother I got some letters showing how delighted she is with the yacht *Lorely* and my English cook and steward! May our screen find favour with you; it is the work of a lady, and may I trust be of some use to you. We have had a very severe winter here, the thermometer showing 21° Réaumur below zero and abundant snow. Children have made snowmen, and of course caught colds. I too had to remain in bed for a few days, and am indoors nearly since a week. I remember my child's Xmas at Windsor very well; may it be a happy one to you! I remain, your most devoted and respectful Grandson, WILLY.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 22nd Dec. 1899.—Saw Lord Salisbury before luncheon. I at once began about Arthur's anxiety to go to South Africa, and pressed it, even against my own inclination. He is strongly against it, but said he would consult his colleagues. He lamented the loss of life, and the mistakes that had been made, and was especially alarmed at Sir R. Buller having changed his mind so often. Lord Salisbury thought Lord Lansdowne quite overdone and the work beyond him. He (Lord S.) had insisted on Lord Kitchener going out with Lord Roberts. He hoped Parliament would not meet before the 15th of February. He was greatly pleased at Nicky's conciliatory tone, as reported by Sir Charles Scott, and at a very friendly message from the German Government.

Saw Lord Roberts after tea. He knelt down and kissed my hand. I said how much I felt for him. He could only answer, "I cannot speak of *that*, but I can of anything else." He said it would take a long time to do what had to be done, and thought very unfortunate mistakes had been made by the Generals. He hoped, when Sir R. Buller got his reinforcements, he would be able to outflank the enemy, and thus relieve Ladysmith. I asked what he meant to do himself. He thought he would concentrate his troops, and then move into the Transvaal. Spoke of the admirable

attitude of the whole Empire and of all the Colonial troops being so anxious to take their part in the fighting. He is delighted to have Lord Kitchener with him, of whom he has the very highest opinion. Spoke also of dear Christle, who was such a friend of his poor son's. He praised him very much, and said he was an excellent soldier.

I referred to the difficulty about Arthur, and Lord Roberts said it would be impossible in the face of the Government's opposition, but there was a place where he would be hailed with great pleasure, *viz.* as Commander of the Forces in Ireland. I said I hoped he might be able to go there. Lord Roberts looks hale and well, though very sad.

Queen Victoria to the Duke of Connaught.

[*Cypher Telegrams.*]

22nd Dec. [1899].—Painful though it would be to see you go, I share your feelings, and have repeated your wish to go on Lord Roberts's Staff to Lord Salisbury, and think difficulty could be got over if you agreed not to expect to assume supreme command under any circumstances.

[*Same day.*].—Since my last telegram to you I have seen Lord Roberts, who strongly advised against your being attached to his Staff, as the responsibilities thereby incurred both as regards yourself and him would be too great. Under these circumstances I feel that there is nothing further to be said or done, but if you would like another public announcement of your having again offered your services it shall be at once made.

The Duke of Connaught to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegrams.*]

22nd Dec. 1899.—Have been with Lord Roberts, who would gladly have me serve, but at meeting of Defence Committee it was decided I could neither waive rank nor would they hear of Buller being superseded. By this action I am prevented serving my

Queen and country at this critical moment. I feel this most deeply.

23rd Dec.—Thanks second telegram. Though deeply grieved, this bears out my feeling of impossibility of accepting condition, which you yourself must see would be undignified, both socially and professionally. Unless you particularly wish it, doubt advisability of repeating previous announcement. ARTHUR.

Queen Victoria to the Duke of Connaught.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

WINDSOR CASTLE, 23rd Dec. 1899.—I have received your telegram. Feel most deeply for you and share your feelings. I pressed your wishes strongly against my own, but the sense of responsibility, *not* of want of confidence in the slightest degree, was too strong on the part of the Government as well as on Lord Roberts's part to be overcome. When you consider the facts and all sides of the question calmly, you will see, I am sure, the wisdom of the decision, which does in no way affect your future.

The Prince of Wales to Queen Victoria.

[*Telegram.*]

23rd Dec. 1899.—Arthur, Uncle George, and I have just taken leave of Lord Roberts at railway station, a dense and unmanageable crowd, with danger of being squashed. I leave for Sandringham to-day. BERTIE.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 23rd Dec. 1899.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty to your Majesty respectfully submits that he is informed that there is a rule with respect to the bestowal of the Victoria Cross after the death of the recipient. It can be done if, before the actual death, the Commanding Officer should have expressed or formed the intention of recommending the bestowal of it in that case; but if no intention of the kind had been expressed or formed, the Cross cannot after death be conferred.

Lord Salisbury was very glad to hear last night that Lord Roberts had convinced your Majesty that the appointment of the Duke of Connaught on his staff was not a desirable arrangement. The military tradition on the subject is so strong that the Duke's high military rank would be a fatal obstacle. Your Majesty's decision will obviate many serious difficulties and dangers.

Lord Salisbury is enquiring with respect to the Crown of India.

Memorandum by Sir Arthur Bigge.

25th Dec. 1899.—Wrote to Lord Lansdowne that, as the Duke of Connaught is under present circumstances precluded from serving in South Africa, H.R.H. is anxious for employment at home, and H.M. therefore hopes that he will be nominated to succeed Lord Roberts as C.-in-C. in Ireland.

Wrote to Lord Wolseley that Queen hoped he would recommend H.R.H. for this appointment.

[Telegram.] *Sir Redvers Buller to Sir Arthur Bigge.*

FRERE CAMP, 25th Dec. 1899.—Please present my humble duty and thanks from all troops to the Queen. We are all well. Wounded doing very well. BULLER.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 26th Dec. 1899.—At half-past four went to St. George's Hall with all my family, including Lenchen, Victoria B., and her children, where I gave the wives of the soldiers and their children a tea and the Xmas tree. The Committee, who are looking after those who are left here, as well as those of the Reservists, were presented to me, Mary Eliot and Freddy Crutchley being amongst them. The Dean, the Mayor, the Vicar of Eton, etc., were there. Then all the women and children trooped in, and after looking at the tree they all sat down to tea at two very long tables, below the tree. Everyone helped to serve them, including my family, old and young, and my ladies and gentlemen. I was rolled up

and down round the tables, after which I went away for a short while to have my own tea, returning when the tree was beginning to be stripped, handing myself many of the things to the wives and dear little children, many of whom were very pretty, and mostly very young. They were so neatly dressed and very well behaved. There were some babies of a few weeks and months old. The women seemed very nice and respectable. It was a very touching sight, when one thinks of the poor husbands and fathers, who are all away, and some of whom may not return. They seemed all very much pleased.

Jane C[hurchill], Lord Denbigh, Mr. Conyngham Greene, our former Diplomatic Agent at Pretoria, Major Schreiber of the 1st Life Guards, and Major St. Aubyn of the Grenadiers (both in command of their regiments, as the Colonels were absent), Colonel Legge, and Captain McNeill dined. Mr. Conyngham Greene was very interesting to speak to. He had foreseen this war sooner or later, and said the Boers had been quite determined to bring it on. Perhaps it was better that it had come now than later. He spoke also of having been at Darmstadt in dear Louis' time.

Lord Curzon to Queen Victoria.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, CALCUTTA, 21st Dec. 1899.—
. . . While at Agra the Viceroy had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of the father of your Majesty's Munshi. He was a courtly old gentleman, and had many interesting experiences to relate. Unfortunately the Munshi was too unwell to accompany his parent.

With regard to the question of titles and decorations in India, the Viceroy entirely shares the strong views which he knows to be entertained by your Majesty as to giving a generous share to Native gentlemen; and he never fails to recommend any name that is highly spoken of and duly qualified. But he would not be doing his duty, did he not inform your Majesty that the C.I.E. in particular has been so easily won by

natives that its value is being depreciated among Europeans. A native is often invested with it after a few years of meritorious service. An Englishman only gains it with difficulty after fifteen or twenty years. The native, in addition, profits by a lavish distribution of native honours which are not open to the European.

Similarly, among the higher orders, G.C.S.I. and K.C.S.I., G.C.I.E. and K.C.I.E., the tendency has been to present these to Native Chiefs or Princes almost before they have proved their worth; and the Viceroy has met upon tour many Chiefs so decorated, of whom it could not be said that they had ever done anything. The Viceroy thinks it necessary to mention these facts, since they show that on the spot there is some practical difficulty in always giving full effect to the generous sentiments which he feels in a not less degree than your Majesty. . . .

Lord Kitchener to Queen Victoria.

“DUNOTTAR CASTLE,” OFF MADEIRA, 28th Dec. 1899.—Lord Kitchener presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and begs to express his very grateful thanks for the gracious letter he received from your Majesty at Khartoum just before leaving, as well as for one delivered to him by Lord Roberts.

Lord Kitchener feels greatly honoured by his selection for the important post on the staff in South Africa which your Majesty has been graciously pleased to confide to him, and he begs to assure your Majesty that no possible effort on his part shall be spared to overcome the present difficulties, and to ensure a successful issue to the campaign against the Boers. It gives Lord Kitchener the greatest pleasure to serve under Lord Roberts, for whom he has the highest admiration.

Lord Kitchener left the Soudan in complete peace. The force under Lieut.-Colonel Mahon had reoccupied el Obeid, and the whole of Kordofan had willingly come under the government. The rumours of strained relations with the Emperor Menelek, started by the

enemies of England, were entirely without foundation, as Lord Kitchener's relations with the Emperor were most friendly when he left.

The college at Khartoum was progressing well, the building being above the first-floor windows; it was hoped to complete the building by next August or September. The teaching staff and students will be then collected.

*Colonel Kekewich to the Marquis of Lansdowne.*¹

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

KIMBERLEY, 28th Dec.—[I] am desired by Mayor and Council to forward the following message for transmission through the proper channel: "To her Most Gracious Majesty, the Queen. The inhabitants of Kimberley beg to send your Majesty New Year's Greetings. The trouble they have passed through, and are still enduring, only tends to love and loyalty towards your Majesty's throne and person. R. H. HENDERSON, Mayor, on behalf of the inhabitants."

Queen Victoria to Colonel Kekewich.

30th Dec. 1899.—Am deeply touched by your kind and loyal New Year's Greetings.

I watch with admiration your determined and gallant defence, though I regret the unavoidable loss of life incurred.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 31st Dec. 1899.—This is the last day in this very eventful, and in many ways sad, year. I have lost many friends, amongst them one who can never be replaced, darling Marie Leiningen! Then there are the sad losses amongst my brave troops, which is a constant sorrow to me. In the midst of it all I have, however, to thank God for many mercies and for the splendid unity and loyalty of my Empire. I pray God to bless and preserve all my children, grandchildren, and kind relations and friends, and may there be brighter days in store for us!

¹ Sent through officer commanding at Modder River.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE TO CHAPTER XVI

THE last year of the nineteenth century was also the last year of Queen Victoria's life. During this winter and spring of war her Majesty, now in her eighty-first year, was more than ever the embodiment of the national spirit. She was indefatigable in encouraging by telegrams and letters her troops and generals in the field; in stimulating to fresh exertions Ministers and departments at home, and in criticising shortcomings; in bidding God-speed to regiments on departure, visiting wounded in hospital, and tendering widows the most womanly and sympathetic consolation; in providing comforts for her soldiers to eat and to wear, working for them herself among her ladies. Public opinion, in unison with the Queen, and cheered by the hearty support of the Empire for the war, remained steady, disregarding alike the ill-will of the European Press and the protests of the pro-Boer party, small but clamorous. Criticism of the War Office was vigorous, and of some of the strategy and tactics in the field was not wanting; but volunteering was exceedingly active; the Liberal amendment to the Address was defeated by 352 votes to 189, and the increases of the Navy and the Army were obtained without difficulty, as well as the necessary taxation—income tax of a shilling in the pound, and considerable additions to the taxes on beer, spirits, and tobacco.

The Boers did not make any serious attempt to follow up their December victories, except by fomenting rebellion in the north and east of Cape Colony, and by a desperate but unsuccessful attempt on 6th January upon Cæsar's Camp at Ladysmith. Lord Roberts, who with Lord Kitchener reached the Cape on the 10th, spent some weeks in organising transport and raising Colonial forces; but on 9th February he was at Modder River at the head of a large column of troops, and immediately despatched General French with the cavalry to turn the left of General Cronje's army and relieve Kimberley—which was done on the 15th. When Cronje endeavoured to slip away to the east he was attacked by Lord Roberts's force, and harassed and finally surrounded in his entrenchments in the bed of the Modder River at Paardeberg after a severe battle on the 18th. On the 27th, the anniversary of Majuba, he surrendered to Lord Roberts with his army of 4,000 men. Meanwhile in Natal, Sir Redvers Buller, having received considerable reinforcements, was pressing forward towards Ladysmith with frequent fights, and some setbacks, notably one at Spion Kop on 25th

January. It was not until the enemy's troops had been weakened by the necessity of sending reinforcements to Cronje that, after very severe fighting, Ladysmith was relieved on 28th February, Sir George White and his troops having undergone a siege of four months.

Cronje's surrender and the relief of Kimberley and Ladysmith altered the whole situation. The Boer Presidents coolly telegraphed on 5th March to Lord Salisbury that they were ready to make peace if the "incontestable independence of both republics" was secured. At the same time they appealed to the Powers, especially Germany and the United States, to intervene; but all enquirers were told in London that her Majesty's Government did "not propose to accept the intervention of any Power in the South African War." The Queen came up to Buckingham Palace for a couple of days, 8th and 9th March, to receive the acclamations of her people. She was welcomed by members of both Houses of Parliament unofficially in the quadrangle of the Palace; and was enthusiastically cheered during two long drives in an open carriage through the streets of London. She marked her appreciation of the fine conduct of her Irish soldiers at the front by ordering that all ranks in her Irish regiments should wear the shamrock on St. Patrick's Day, and by authorising the formation of a regiment of Irish Guards. Instead of going for her spring holiday, as she had intended, to Bordighera, her Majesty determined to visit Ireland. She stayed at the Viceregal Lodge from 4th to 26th April. She was welcomed on her arrival by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, and was always cordially and often enthusiastically received in her numerous drives through the city and neighbourhood; she held a review, saw several leading Irishmen, lay and clerical, and visited many charitable institutions.

Lord Roberts entered Bloemfontein on 18th March without opposition, and paused to rest and refit his troops. The attempts made by British detachments to pacify the country districts and to collect arms were only moderately successful; and a series of local disasters, at Sannah's Post, Dewetsdorp, Reddersberg, and elsewhere, which were repeated only too often during the remainder of the war, irritated our troops and heartened the Boers. While many districts of the Orange Free State were still overrun by the enemy, Lord Roberts advanced northwards, and after fighting several engagements entered Kroonstad on 12th May. Meanwhile, he had made arrangements for the relief of Mafeking, which

was effected by a mounted force under Colonel Mahon on the 17th. The good news was received in England with the wildest enthusiasm. Colonel (at once promoted Major-General) Baden-Powell and his gallant force had held out for seven months.

After Kroonstad Lord Roberts's advance was not seriously opposed. He crossed the Vaal on 28th May, entered Johannesburg on the 31st, and finally Pretoria, where he released 4,000 British prisoners, on 5th June, General Botha evacuating the capital without a fight. The capitals of the two states and all the most important towns were now in British occupation, and Mr. Kruger and Mr. Steyn, the two Presidents, had taken refuge with such of their troops as were in the field. But overtures to the Boer Generals proved fruitless, and a guerilla warfare began which it was to take our forces two more years to overcome. Immediately after Lord Roberts had entered Pretoria, General De Wet surprised a British force at Roodeval, and after a severe fight captured 700 men, and destroyed large stores of ammunition and supplies; continuing to make raids on a smaller scale throughout the autumn and winter. On the other hand, on 31st July, General Prinsloo with 4,000 men was surrounded by Generals Hunter and Rendle and surrendered. Sir Redvers Buller, too, had much success in clearing the eastern Transvaal and the Drakensberg.

By 1st September the situation seemed sufficiently defined for the issue of the Proclamation annexing the Transvaal to her Majesty's Dominions, the Orange Free State having been annexed on 28th May. Mr. Chamberlain had declared in the House of Commons that it was intended to give the annexed states at the earliest possible moment the constitution of self-governing Colonies. On the 11th Mr. Kruger withdrew to Lorenzo Marques on his way to Europe; he was received by the French President, but refused an audience by the German Emperor. Mr. Steyn remained with the Boer guerillas. Owing to the ambiguity of Liberal opinion on the war, and to the unsparing abuse which had been heaped on Mr. Chamberlain and his policy, an appeal was made to the British electorate in a General Election in October. The verdict was unmistakable: the Unionists were confirmed in office by a majority of 134. Lord Salisbury made several alterations in his Cabinet, the most important being that he relinquished the Foreign Office to Lord Lansdowne. Lord Roberts was appointed Commander-in-Chief in succession to

Lord Wolseley, and gave up the command in South Africa to Lord Kitchener, who remained to deal with the guerilla warfare.

The British Empire showed everywhere great enthusiasm for the war, and the Colonies furnished many contingents of fighting men, New Zealand, the farthest from South Africa, being perhaps the most enthusiastic of all. The Australian Commonwealth Act passed, after a compromise on the appeal to the Judicial Committee. Lord Hopetoun, the first Governor-General, reached Sydney on 16th December, and Mr. Barton became the first Prime Minister.

In Germany the first step was taken in naval rivalry with Great Britain by the new Navy Bill, which was eventually passed in the Reichstag by a majority of two to one. The scheme provided two complete fighting fleets, operating independently. In France the holding of a Universal Exhibition contributed to a gradual calming of public opinion. In Italy King Humbert was assassinated by an anarchist, and was succeeded by his son, the present sovereign, Victor Emmanuel. An anarchist shot at the Prince of Wales at Brussels.

In China this year there was a serious "Boxer" anti-foreign rising, fostered behind the scenes by the Empress Dowager. It began by massacres of missionaries and native Christians, and general outrage and looting; and in June brought about chaos in Peking. Several foreign diplomatists were murdered; foreign-owned buildings—cathedrals, banks, custom-house, mint, post office, and some of the legations—were destroyed; the principal shops were burnt; and on the 20th there began a regular siege of the legations—the British Legation being the centre of resistance, and the British Minister, Sir Claude MacDonald, in command. With a nucleus of only 400 legation guards they held out for eight weeks, till they were relieved on 13th August by an international force which had fought its way from Tientsin.

In the summer the Queen's health began to fail. She was much affected by the death of the Duke of Coburg at the end of July, and of Prince Christian Victor on active service in October, and by the prolonged sufferings this autumn of the Empress Frederick. She was seriously ill at Windsor early in November, but recovered for awhile. After getting to Osborne in the middle of December, she steadily lost ground, but still kept at work. The death of her old friend Lady Churchill on Christmas Day was another blow. Her Majesty lived on into 1901 for only three weeks.

CHAPTER XVI

1900

[*Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to Sir Redvers Buller.*

1st Jan. 1900.—Wish you all a bright and happy New Year. God bless you! V. R. I.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 1st Jan. 1900.—I begin to-day a new year and a new century, full of anxiety and fear of what may be before us! May all near and dear ones be protected, above all, darling Vicky, who is far from well! I cannot help feeling thankful that, after all, dear Arthur has not gone out to this terrible war. I hope and pray dear Christle may be spared and many a tried and devoted friend. I pray that God may spare me yet a short while to my children, friends, and dear country, leaving me all my faculties and to a certain extent my eyesight! May He bless our arms and give our men strength to fulfil their arduous task!

Lord Tennyson¹ to Queen Victoria.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, ADELAIDE, 1st January 1900.

MADAM,—On behalf of South Australia and ourselves, I venture this morning to send a telegram expressing our heartfelt loyalty and best wishes for your Majesty in the coming year.

Your Majesty is constantly in our thoughts, for we know how, Madam, you must be grieving over this terrible war; and yet your Majesty will rejoice, as

¹ The 2nd Lord Tennyson, then Governor of South Australia; Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia 1901–1904.

we all do, in the splendid bravery of our British troops, and of our Naval Brigade. The war has done an infinity of good on this island-continent, and has welded Australia to the Empire in such a way that the bond of union will, I feel convinced, be henceforward indissoluble. Before the war there was a party for the separation of Australia from Great Britain, but such has been the earnest and impetuous loyalty of the labouring classes all through the country, that the demagogues have been compelled to give up the utterance of their unpatriotic sentiments, and now are among the most patriotic speakers at public meetings.

At a meeting in one of the most democratic centres the other day a poor man in his working clothes marched up the hall, and handed the Mayor his few shillings, which was his day's pay, and desired that they should go to the fund for the wives and children of the soldiers. The Mayor asked for his name. He answered, "Oh, it does not matter about the name: I am an old militia man, and can feel for those who are fighting for home and country." The democrats rose to a man and cheered loudly. Indeed, the outburst of enthusiastic loyalty and devotion to your Majesty throughout Australia is *magnificent*, and I am glad to have lived to see it. . . .

I am, Madam, with my humble duty, ever your Majesty's most loyal servant, TENNYSON.

[Copy.] *Sir Arthur Bigge to the Lord Mayor.*

OSBORNE, 2nd January 1900.

MY LORD MAYOR,—I have the honour to inform you that the Queen regrets that she is unable [to] adopt the gratifying suggestion contained in your letter of the 31st inst. that her Majesty should accept the Honorary Colonelcy of the City of London Imperial Volunteers. The Queen being head of her Army is head of every regiment in it, and her Majesty has never been especially nominated Chief of any of her regiments.

At the same time, I have to assure you how much the Queen values the Corps which the City of London has so patriotically raised for service in S.A.

[*Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to Sir George White.*

8th Jan. 1900.—Warmly congratulate you and all under your command for your brilliant success¹; greatly admire conduct of the Devonshire regiment.
V. R. I.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

8th Jan. 1900.—Sir Alfred Milner telegram No. 1 January 3rd.² Sir F. Lascelles should be instructed to remonstrate at the presence of so many German officers and men with the Boers. It is monstrous.
V. R. I.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

8th Jan.—Humble duty. Your Majesty's cypher to-day. Am assured by German Chargé d'Affaires that every precaution had been taken to prevent German officers from joining the Boers. Leave was invariably refused if it was thought they were going to South Africa. If German soldiers who were pensioned took service with the Boers, their pension was stopped. Of course German Government have not legal power to go farther than this and, if they are telling the truth, they have done all they can.

[*Telegram.*] *Lady White to Queen Victoria.*

ENGLEFIELD GREEN, 9th Jan. 1900.—Will your Majesty allow me to express with humble duty my heartfelt gratitude and deepest appreciation of your Majesty's gracious message? AMY WHITE.

¹ In the attack on Cæsar's Camp.

² Sir Alfred Milner reported that some fifty German soldiers and reservists, mostly officers or non-commissioned officers, and some ten Frenchmen had landed at Delagoa Bay on various dates during November and December and gone up to the Transvaal.

Viscount Wolseley to Queen Victoria.

9th Jan. 1900.—. . . General Sir G. White's telegram is cheery in tone, and describes in well-chosen words the result of a well-earned success.

Lord Wolseley is glad that our losses are small in rank and file, though severe in officers. But that is as it should be, for it proves that the gentlemen to whom the Queen gives Commissions in the Army realise the privileges of their position as gentlemen, and nobly accept the responsibilities inseparable from that position. . . . WOLSELEY.

[Copy.] The Empress Frederick to Queen Victoria.

LA MARIGOLA, 10th January 1900.

MY BELOVED MAMA,—. . . I look upon this war, dreadful as it is, as of immense use to England in many a way! First, it has shown us where the weak points in our *armour* are, and we can *remedy* that; then it has caused the *others*, who envy us and wish us *ill*, to “*show their hand*,” and *then* what stuff we are made of—*i.e.* how determined and loyal and united and how we intend to *carry through* what we have *begun*! Then, it will weld the Empire together; in short, it is a crisis in our development, which I am sure was unavoidable, and in spite of *losses* and *reverses*, the experience we shall have gained will be a strength and a blessing to us hereafter, and those who so loudly attack us in their Press will have to change their tone some day, and they have *not* made us change our purpose. . . . Your most dutiful and devoted daughter, VICTORIA.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 11th Jan. 1900.—After tea saw Lord Rowton. Had much talk with him about the war and our want of preparedness, which has existed for a long time, and which is very culpable. Also asked him to see Lord Salisbury, to try and impress upon him the importance of having no official enquiry into

the conduct of the war until it is over. It would only be repeated back to the Boers and to foreign countries, and would do us a great deal of harm.

Sir George White to H.M.'s Private Secretary.
[Telegram.]

11th Jan. 1900.—The Garrison of Ladysmith are deeply grateful for the Queen's most gracious message, and beg to express their loyal duty.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Sir Arthur Bigge.

WAR OFFICE, 11th January 1900.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—I am not surprised at her Majesty's anxiety, and at the concern with which she regards the succession of untoward incidents which have occurred in South Africa.

I enclose copy of a telegram which was sent to Lord Roberts yesterday: it gives him a free hand to dispose of his Generals as he thinks fit. This is, I believe, the proper line to take, and Lord Salisbury, whom I have consulted, is of the same opinion. In a personal and private telegram I mentioned to Lord Roberts the impression which had been produced here by private letters from officers with Lord Methuen's force, some of these officers of very senior rank, and begged that he would satisfy himself upon this point. . . . Pray convey to her Majesty my grateful thanks for her readiness to excuse me from attendance upon her at Osborne. I am, my dear Bigge, yours sincerely, LANSDOWNE.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 15th Jan. 1900.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty to your Majesty respectfully submits that in compliance with your Majesty's commands he saw Lord Rowton yesterday.

He understands that your Majesty is disagreeably impressed with the number of Members of Parliament on the Government side who have gone to the war, and who will therefore for some months be absent

from divisions. Great efforts were made to persuade some of them of the serious inconvenience of this course, but without success. Lord Salisbury understands that at present there are only fifteen gone ; and the enthusiasm which has carried them off is becoming perhaps less intense. The strong feeling shown by all classes, and in all parts of your Majesty's Dominions, must be very gratifying to your Majesty, though some of the results are inconvenient for the time.

Lord Rowton spoke to Lord Salisbury upon the question of a Parliamentary enquiry into the conduct of the war and the preparations of the War Office. Lord Salisbury quite admits that some such enquiry will be insisted on, and is in fact necessary ; but he does not see how it is to be conducted satisfactorily while the war is still going on. Most of the witnesses who can give any evidence of value will be either in South Africa, or, if they are in this country and connected with the War Office, will be so entirely occupied with official duties of the utmost importance that they will have no time for appearing before a Select Committee. This will be a formidable difficulty, because no doubt Parliament will press that the enquiry should commence as soon as possible.

In the case of the Crimean War the double mistake was made—the enquiry was resisted (and carried in the teeth of the Government), and it was commenced at once. Consequently, there was no evidence worth having, and it ended in nothing.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 17th Jan. 1900.—After tea read despatches, etc., and there was a telegram from Sir C. Scott, saying Nicky had forbidden anything being done to embarrass us in our present difficulties.

Saw Mr. Goschen before dinner, with whose energy and intelligent comprehension of affairs I was much pleased. He had not left London, except once for two nights, for a number of months, as there was so much requiring constant attention, owing to the ships

that were being seized. Talked over the war, and the many losses due to want of preparation, which however had been almost unavoidable. Spoke of the unfriendliness of Germany, which he thought unaccountable. Neither of us believed in any intention of France to attack us, but we must be well prepared, and he agreed with me that all the militia ought to be called out. He thought it would be dangerous to mobilise the Reserve Fleet, as the French believed we meant to attack them, and such a step might encourage such a belief. It was a great thing that the Governments of Germany, Russia, and France were well disposed. He quite agreed with me as to the desirability of there being no discussions about the war in Parliament, but that there should be an ultimate enquiry into the state of affairs.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 18th Jan. 1900.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty to your Majesty respectfully returns with many thanks the most interesting extract from the letter of H.I.M. the Empress Frederick which your Majesty has kindly allowed him to see. He hopes that the difficulty with Germany has been arranged. The sailors have been easily persuaded, on very inadequate evidence, to stop the German mail ships. But the matter has been settled, though it will probably prove to be a costly mistake.

Lord Curzon to Queen Victoria.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, CALCUTTA, 18th Jan. 1900.—The Viceroy with his humble duty to your Majesty the Queen Empress has been writing with his own hand, and sending to the various Princes and Chiefs letters, or *Kharitas* as they are here called, expressing to them the recognition of your Majesty and of your Government of the loyalty that they have displayed, and of their generous offers of assistance, sometimes personal, sometimes in horses, equipment, and men, for the war in South Africa.

The young Maharajah Scindia, about whom the Viceroy has more than once written, has been burning with anxiety to go out to the theatre of war, and to distinguish himself in any capacity, however subordinate, in the field.

It is disappointing to have to refuse these offers, in some cases so manifestly genuine. But apart from the racial question in South Africa, it is clear that difficulties would arise both in the employment of Indian Chiefs and, if they were killed, out of their death. And the Viceroy always impresses upon them himself that their first duty lies among their own people, particularly at a time when there are so much distress and suffering in India.

Unfortunately, the famine deepens and gets worse; and although no one pays much attention to us from outside, the Viceroy fears that he is confronted with the worst famine, in respect of the districts that are hardest hit, within and even beyond living memory in India. The strain upon Government, both administrative and financial, is tremendous; and we have five months more of anxiety and suffering in view. Few, if any, lives have so far been lost. But as often as not it is our own officers who break down. The other day there came into hospital here an excellent engineer officer from the Central Provinces, paralysed, and almost shattered, by the strain of the past three months. . . .

We seem at a turning-point in South Africa, and the whole Empire is waiting eagerly for better news.

The Viceroy hopes that when your Majesty goes to Bordighera, you may enjoy more freedom from interruption, and may derive even greater gain than might have been the case at Nice.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 19th Jan. 1900.—Sir J. Fullerton told me about the new yacht, in which he came round to Portsmouth. She had proved herself a good sea boat, but met with an accident while she was being floated, in

consequence of most blameable miscalculation ; and many improvements, especially those for the accommodation of the crew, will in consequence have to be abandoned. The poor constructor, Sir William White,¹ is quite brokenhearted about it, for she will now not be the success she was to have been, though quite safe. It is very annoying.

21st Jan.—Heard shortly before dinner from May that her poor father had had a seizure, and was in a most critical condition. Directly afterwards heard poor Franz Teck had passed peacefully away.

Lord Roberts to H.M.'s Private Secretary.

[Telegram.]

CAPE TOWN, 21st Jan. 1900.—The issue of the Queen's Christmas gift of chocolate to the troops in South Africa has commenced. Please inform her Majesty her soldiers are deeply grateful for her gracious and kind thought of them, and we are inundated with requests to supply the boxes to regiments at a distance which have not yet received them. ROBERTS.

Lord Roberts to Queen Victoria.

CAPE TOWN, 21st January 1900.

MADAM,—. . . The state of affairs here is, I regret to say, far from satisfactory ; and I fear no change for the better can take place until peace is restored, and the several factions, into which South Africa is divided, realise that it is our unalterable determination to maintain British supremacy from Cape Town to the Zambesi. Party feeling runs very high, and, as intermarriage between the Dutch and other settlers in the several colonies has been the custom for many years past, relations are divided against relations, and friends of long standing have become bitter enemies.

Some few of the Dutch are staunch loyalists, but the sympathy of the great majority is with the Boers, and owing to the idea (which was widely spread about

¹ 1845-1918 ; Director of Naval Construction, 1885-1902.

by the Transvaal Government) that we would not continue the struggle, and to the successes which the Boers met with at the commencement of the war, many waverers joined against us. Others are watching events, and the general opinion seems to be that, if we get well through the next month or six weeks, the Boers will not be able to obtain many more recruits from districts south of the Orange River.

The importance of encouraging the loyal subjects of the Crown is fully appreciated by the civil as well as the military in South Africa. During the short time Sir Redvers Buller was here he ordered some local corps to be raised, and, with Sir Alfred Milner's assistance, I am now arranging that these should be considerably strengthened. Colonel Brabant, a gentleman possessing considerable influence in the Colony, is increasing the number of men in his regiment to over 3,000, and his promotion to the rank of Brigadier-General has, I understand, given the greatest satisfaction to all your Majesty's loyal subjects in South Africa.

It will, I am sure, interest your Majesty to learn that the hospitals I have been able to visit are well managed and in excellent order. So high an authority as the eminent surgeon Sir William MacCormac¹ has expressed himself well satisfied with them, and with the medical arrangements generally. The nursing sisters are indefatigable in their care of, and attention to, the sick and wounded officers and men, and their labours are well seconded by the many ladies who have come forward to help in the hospitals, and whose presence in the wards, coupled with their gifts of flowers, books, and newspapers, goes far towards brightening the somewhat sad scenes amidst which they work.

I had a curious experience a day or two ago. I entered a ward some paces ahead of the hospital staff, and enquired from the first patient I came across to what regiment he belonged. As I asked the question,

¹ Consulting surgeon to the forces in South Africa; five times President of the Royal College of Surgeons.

I thought it odd that so old and so well bearded a man could be serving in the ranks. The explanation was afforded when I heard that the ward was full of wounded Boers. They were most respectful in their manners, and bore themselves with great dignity. All were unanimous in their thanks for the kind and skilful treatment they had received.

24th January.—I have kept this open until to-day in the hope that I might be able to give your Majesty good news about Sir Redvers Buller's force, but a telegram received last evening shows that the advance portion of it, under General Warren, has still some distance to go before it can reach Ladysmith. It is a very anxious time

I am distressed at not being able to afford some assistance by threatening Bloemfontein, but the want of a properly organized transport precludes my taking the field at present. This, however, is gradually being remedied, and I sincerely trust that, by the time this letter reaches England, some of your Majesty's troops will have entered the Orange Free State.

With my most respectful duty, I have the honour to be, Madam, your Majesty's most obedient humble servant, ROBERTS.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 22nd Jan. 1900.—Saw Mr. Chamberlain. Of course we talked of the war and the Colonies in general. He thinks and hopes that the back of the war will be broken if we can relieve Ladysmith. He will not believe that the numbers of the Boers are as great as is said, and thinks they must be exaggerated, in which I differ with him. He repeated that he had done everything in the world to prevent the war, but that as it had come, for come it must have in the future, it was better that it should have been now, before the numbers of the enemy were still greater.

Mr. Chamberlain spoke of the Federation of the Australian Colonies, which had been effected in Australia, but would have to be legalised by an act of

Parliament. There would then be only one Governor-General and lesser Provincial Governors, more or less as in Canada. The Colonies particularly wished for some one closely connected with the throne, and he mentioned Louise and Lorne, which much to my regret I had to say was quite impossible on account of her health, so he said he would not move in the matter.

Sir Arthur Bigge to Queen Victoria.

22nd Jan. 1900.—Humbly submitted. The Lord Mayor reports that £52,240 has, so far, been collected¹ in churches and in compliance with "The Queen's Letter."

Sir A. Bigge has expressed your Majesty's gratification at this satisfactory result of the appeal.

Archbishop Temple to Queen Victoria.

LAMBETH PALACE, 24th Jan. 1900.—The Archbishop of Canterbury presents his humble duty to the Queen, and encloses a copy of the Form of Intercession which it is proposed to issue under Royal Authority for use in church during the continuance of the present war.²

It is drawn up in such a manner as to give various alternatives so as to suit frequent use, and also so as to permit of its being either a part of the regular order for morning or evening service, or being made a very brief separate service.

The Archbishop desires to assure the Queen of his entire devotion to her Majesty's Office and Person.
F. CANTUAR.

The Archbishop is sending copies to the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Lansdowne.
[Cypher Telegram.]

OSBORNE, 24th Jan. 1900.—See by despatch that Sir R. Buller recommended poor young Roberts

¹ For the Indian famine. The sum eventually reached about £400,000.

² See below, pp. 472 and 476.

while he was still alive for the Victoria Cross. Would wish to have it, so that I may hand it to Lady Roberts myself.

I think you should never publish what the Generals announce they *mean to do*, or any great hopes, when London is full of spies, and it will instantly be telegraphed back. . . .

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Queen Victoria.
[Cypher Telegram.]

24th Jan. (1900).—Your Majesty's telegram of to-day. Victoria Cross for Lieutenant Roberts will be sent to your Majesty.

Our practice as to publishing telegrams has been in accordance with your Majesty's view. In case of telegrams published to-day announcement had referred to an event which would take place before publication. Whenever possible I consult Commander-in-Chief as to publication.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 26th Jan. 1900.—My cough was so troublesome during the night, that I could only get up late. Heard to my great distress from Sir R. Buller: "Warren's garrison, am sorry to say, I find this morning had in the night abandoned Spion Kop. Up there yesterday they lost General Woodgate dangerously wounded, 200 killed, and about 300 wounded, mostly badly. Have gone over and assumed command, and am bringing force back to Potgieter's Drift on morning of 27th." This caused us the most bitter disappointment, after having been so delighted at the previous good news.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.
[Cypher Telegram.]

27th Jan. 1900.—Am much surprised to see by your telegram and letter that the very serious state of the war was not considered by the Cabinet yesterday. The feeling abroad, except in America and Italy, is

so inimical that we ought to take further steps to protect this country, and to raise more troops if we can. There is not a doubt that the attempted relief of Ladysmith would have succeeded had we had more troops. All Militia must be called out. Red-tapings and useless difficulties must not be regarded at such a very serious moment. The loss of so many valuable lives for nothing is terrible. What do Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener say? I have such faith in the latter, but we hear nothing from either.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

27th Jan. 1900.—Humble duty. *Secret.* Yesterday Lord Lansdowne telegraphed to Lord Roberts, and we have answer this morning. He is in communication with General Buller, and is arranging for a movement through the Orange Free State so as to support General Buller's movement in Natal. This should not be mentioned. It is far the most hopeful plan of operations, and in fact is the original plan which Buller unwisely abandoned. Lord Kitchener is working with Lord Roberts.

We do not yet know history of abandonment of Spion Kop. It does not seem to have been caused by want of troops.

Your Majesty's wishes as to defence of this country have been conveyed to Lord Lansdowne. Every effort is being made to raise troops here.

Queen Victoria to Sir Arthur Bigge.

27th Jan. 1900.—The Queen is determined to press any available measure to put us in a safe position, and to put an end to these terrible failures. . . .

[*Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to Sir Redvers Buller.*

OSBORNE, 29th Jan. (1900).—I must express my admiration of the conduct of the troops during the past trying week, especially of those regiments you specify, and of the accomplishment of your arduous march. V. R. I.

[Telegram.] *Sir Redvers Buller to Queen Victoria.*

SPEARMAN'S CAMP, 30th Jan. 1900.—Your Majesty's gracious message has been communicated to the troops and received with enthusiasm. GENERAL BULLER.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Queen Victoria.

WAR OFFICE, 29th Jan. 1900.—Lord Lansdowne presents his humble duty to the Queen, and he has the honour to enclose a note of various military measures which the Defence Committee has lately decided to adopt on the recommendation of the War Office. The Note does not of course profess to give more than an outline of the proposals, which will require to be carefully worked out.

The second proposal, that for the creation of battalions of "Veterans," originated with the Commander-in-Chief, and is very strongly supported by him. He is confident that many of these men will be glad to serve again on a short engagement, such as that suggested. It is hoped that your Majesty will be pleased to issue a Proclamation inviting such men, and also retired officers, to serve again.

The importance of increasing the mounted Artillery will, Lord Lansdowne is sure, be recognised by your Majesty, and also the desirability of placing better guns of position in the hands of the Volunteers.

Lord Lansdowne deeply regrets that the news from South Africa should be so little encouraging. He looks forward confidently to an improvement in the situation from the moment when Lord Roberts begins his advance into the Orange Free State. But the situation in Natal seems to him to present scarcely any hopeful features.

Memorandum of Military Measures.

1. In view of the increased demands upon the Army to raise twelve new regular battalions of the Line.

2. To create a number of emergency battalions composed of "veterans" who have completed their period of service in the Reserve. Such men to be engaged for one year only and to receive, in addition to the full pay and allowances of a soldier, a bonus of

£20 payable in instalments. These men to be engaged primarily for home service, but to be allowed to volunteer for service abroad should they desire to do so. The number of battalions to be thus raised was not fixed, it being thought better to first ascertain whether men of this class responded readily to the call.

3. To raise, in addition to the artillery now left at home, sufficient artillery for two more Army Corps and two more Cavalry Brigades.

4. To order guns for the whole of the batteries required to give effect to the above decision, with sufficient reserve of guns. Forty-seven batteries of guns of the newest type have been ordered.

5. All Cavalry regiments in the United Kingdom to be raised to war strength.

6. To raise new Companies (number not yet fixed) of Royal Engineers and Army Service Corps.

7. To continue the policy of embodying more Militia battalions.

Note.—A large embodiment could take place most conveniently later in the year, when the battalions embodied could be put under canvas.

8. To double the number of three years' men in each line battalion, the establishment of the battalions being raised to a corresponding extent to admit of this.

Note.—The effect of this will be to add rapidly to the number of Army Reserve.

9. To supply a certain number of Volunteer Artillery regiments with new guns of position of the best modern type—the men to be specially trained in their use.

10. During the coming summer to form Volunteer Camps for the purpose of training that part of the Forces.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

30th Jan. 1900.—Thanks for your letter of yesterday. Am glad to hear of the measures determined on. Hope all Cavalry at home will be for ever kept at war footing. Trust that 8th Division will be sent as desired by Lord Roberts and as soon as possible. Still think the whole Militia should be embodied. Could not corrugated-iron huts be used instead of tents?

[*Copy.*] *Queen Victoria to Lady Roberts.*

OSBORNE, 30th January 1900.

DEAR LADY ROBERTS,—I send you with these lines what I know you and Lord Roberts will value, but which I forward with a very sad heart. It is the Victoria Cross, which I should have been so proud and

pleased to decorate your darling son with myself. I would not let anyone send it you but myself; it is a melancholy pleasure to me to do so.¹

I have been most deeply touched by your letter and by the one to Lady Lytton, in which you give all the harrowing details of your beloved son's last hours and of his splendid conduct. It must be most trying for you to be separated from your husband now in your great grief. He has an arduous task before him; and will, as we all are, be much grieved at the grievous losses we have again sustained.

That God may bless and protect him and protect our brave soldiers who fight so admirably, and that He may support you in your great trial and deep affliction is the warmest prayer of, yours affectionately and sympathisingly, V. R. I.

I shall be most anxious to see you on my return to Windsor.

[*Copy.*] *Queen Victoria to Archbishop Temple.*

OSBORNE, 30th Jan. 1900.—The Queen thanks the Archbishop of Canterbury for his letter accompanying the Form of Prayer to be used in the various Churches in the dioceses of the country on the Sunday to be shortly named for the occasion of the war in South Africa, and the Queen thinks it will do very well with a few alterations which Lord Salisbury will communicate to him.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

OSBORNE, 30th Jan. 1900.—I am horrified at the terrible list of casualties, twenty-two officers killed and twenty-one wounded. It is quite imperative that Lord Roberts should not move till he has plenty of troops, a really large force. Pray impress this on him. And we must hurry out more troops. You must call out the Militia at once. Would it be possible to warn the young officers not to expose themselves more than is absolutely necessary?

¹ See below, pp. 477-8.

Please show this to Lord Wolseley.

Ladysmith is a sad business, but how splendidly [? defended !] We have never had enough troops . . . and we have always underrated the number of the enemy.

Please show this also to Lord Salisbury.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Queen Victoria.
[Cypher Telegram.]

30th Jan. 1900.—I join your Majesty in deploring heavy casualties among officers. I will make Lord Roberts aware of your wish that they should not needlessly expose themselves; but Lord Wolseley thinks any general announcement of this sort would be inadvisable.

Lord Wolseley is satisfied that Lord Roberts will not move before he has sufficient troops. We are calling out more Militia, and will continue to do so. At this moment our barracks are full. We are sending out to South Africa Cavalry Brigade and more Militia, and keeping the regiments now in South Africa up to their establishment by sending out full drafts.

I will show your letter [? telegram] to Lord Salisbury.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.
[Cypher Telegram.]

30th Jan. 1900.—I thought the Speech¹ wonderfully well worded. I am sure you will hold firm language and not in a depressed tone, and not allow discussions, *before* the war is over, about the Generals. This applies equally to Mr. Balfour, Lord Lansdowne, and Mr. Wyndham.²

The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.

BERLIN, 30th January 1900.

MOST BELOVED GRANDMAMA,—Colonel Grierson has been called back for service in Africa, and returns to England to-night, and so I avail myself of this opportunity to hasten to thank you for the kind letter

¹ The Queen's Speech on the opening of Parliament.

² Under-Secretary for War.

which contained so many good and kindly wishes and for the fine vase which stood on my table, dwarfing all my other presents ! The birthday was indeed a very quiet one, as a deep shadow had been thrown on it by the untimely death of my poor Mama-in-law. The collapse was very sudden, and its suddenness struck the poor children all the more. . . .

Since I last wrote you have again to deplore the death of a General and many brave officers and men on the bloody banks of Tugela. I deeply sympathise with the grief of their relatives ; the rows of mourners are, I am afraid, swelling more and more.

I immediately communicated the contents of your letter about the five officers, said to be serving with the Boers, to the Chief of the Military Cabinet, General von Hahnke. After due correspondence with the Army Corps and regiments they belong to, I am glad to be able to inform you that the news is quite incorrect. There are three Prussian officers belonging to the active service in South Africa. One, a Major, was sent to the South African Colonies (British) by the doctors because he is suffering from a severe inflammation of the lungs. The second, a Lieutenant, has gone out as a war correspondent for a Berlin paper, and has been ordered to return. The third went to Cape Town as a traveller to look on at the war, and has also been motioned to return. In October a Major of a Lancer Regiment went out as *Zuschauer* and went through Pretoria ; he too has been recalled through my Consul-General, and has set out on his return journey. These are the only officers on active service in the Prussian Army which have gone to South Africa. All the other names quoted belong to officers who have long since left the Army, and have [had] nothing to do with it for years. Besides, they are mostly Bavarians, Wurttembergers, etc. Over these I have no jurisdiction whatever, as they do not belong to the Army, and they can do as they like.

I think, therefore, that I can answer for my officers and their obedience to my commands, and assure you

that no actively serving officers are fighting or leading Boers, which by the by they would be utterly incapable to, even should they have wished, considering the enormous difficulty of that terrible country which no European can understand, without having lived there for years. With my sincerest repeated thanks for all your wishes, I kiss your hands, and respectfully remain, ever your most obedient Grandson, WILLIAM I. R.

P.S.—I had much better news, thank God, from Mama; she has gone on board the yacht again.

Mr. Goschen to Sir Arthur Bigge.

Private.

ADMIRALTY, 30th January 1900.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR BIGGE,—Lord Lansdowne showed me a message of the Queen's to him, in which were the words: "I think the fleet ought to be ready to mobilise."

I can assure her Majesty that the possible necessity of mobilising the fleet is constantly before my eyes, and that all the dispositions we make keep this eventuality in view, and immediate mobilisation could take place at any moment.

I have consulted with Lord Salisbury and other colleagues as to the question of *actual* mobilisation, but we came to the conclusion that it would be inexpedient to mobilise now. Such a step would inevitably lead to counter-steps on the part of other Powers, whose Governments at present are not menacing us navally in any way. As regards France especially, if we showed our full strength in the Channel, we should have possibly a demonstration which would at once cause anxiety as to our transports.

Our policy should be, in our judgment, while watching with the keenest attention every disquieting symptom, to do nothing provocative, or which would be called provocative; but of course with the country so denuded of troops, we ought to be ready at a moment's notice to have our whole strength mobile.

The necessity might arise at any moment. Yours sincerely, GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

[*Telegram.*] *Lord Roberts to Queen Victoria.*

CAPE TOWN, 1st Feb. 1900.—Words cannot express my gratitude to your Majesty for the gracious kindness to and tender thoughtfulness for Lady Roberts and myself. I am very well, and I trust that everything is going on satisfactorily with your Majesty's Army in South Africa. ROBERTS.

Archbishop Temple to Queen Victoria.

LAMBETH PALACE, 1st Feb. 1900.—The Archbishop of Canterbury presents his duty to the Queen, and begs leave to express his gratitude for the warm interest and kindly trouble which her Majesty now, as always, has taken in what concerns the action of the Church. Her Majesty's suggestions for the improvement of the Form of Intercession have been strictly followed, and the Privy Council has made the necessary order.

The Archbishop's keen interest in the matter has been much increased by the fact that his own eldest son, just over twenty years of age, has obtained leave of his College at Oxford to go to South Africa in connection with the Oxfordshire Yeomanry, and sails on Saturday. This is but another instance of the strong feelings which animate the young men of England in their devotion to her Majesty's rights in all the Empire.

The Archbishop desires to assure the Queen of his entire devotion to her Crown and Person.

Lord Curzon to Queen Victoria.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, CALCUTTA, 1st Feb. 1900.—The Viceroy with his humble duty to your Majesty, the Queen Empress, is very grateful indeed for the immediate and munificent response which your Majesty was good enough to make to his appeal on behalf of an Indian Famine Relief Fund. It is now settled that the fund will be opened simultaneously

in India and England ; and although the same degree of assistance cannot be expected from home as was given three years ago, the Viceroy is yet hopeful that a very substantial contribution may come from London, where it seems that the wonderful loyalty shown by all classes in India in connection with the war has excited warm feelings of admiration and gratitude.

The Viceroy desires to acknowledge your Majesty's letter of 5th January which arrived a little while ago. He has lost no opportunity of giving expression to your Majesty's sentiments to the Princes and peoples of India ; and they are fully aware that their loyal attitude has won the thanks of their Sovereign as well as the recognition of the nation. . . .

The Mayor of Mafeking to Queen Victoria.
[Telegram.]

MAFEKING, 2nd Feb. 1900.—Mafeking upon hundredth day of siege sends loyal devotion to your Majesty, and assurance continued resolve to maintain your Majesty's supremacy in this town. WHITELEY, Mayor, Mafeking.¹

Lady Roberts to Queen Victoria.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL, DUBLIN, 2nd February 1900.

MADAM,—My most gracious and beloved Queen, I have no words to express my deep gratitude for the great honour your Majesty has done me, in sending me with your Majesty's own hand my darling boy's Victoria Cross, which I am so proud to receive, and in writing me that beautiful and most precious letter,² which, with the Cross itself, will ever be treasured by my husband, my children, and myself as our most highly valued possession.

It is utterly impossible to express what I feel ; but I beg your Majesty will believe in my heartfelt gratitude, love and devotion, and that of my two dear girls, who feel most deeply the honour done to the memory of their dearly loved brother, who was the

¹ See below, p. 482.

² See above, p. 471.

joy of *their* lives as well as of his parents. I am sending my husband a copy of your Majesty's precious letter, as I know it will touch, console, and gladden his heart more than anything else possibly could. I feel deeply your Majesty's graciously expressed wish to see me at Windsor.

That God may bless and comfort your Majesty for the loss of so many brave soldiers, and that He may speedily restore peace and happiness to your Majesty's heart and kingdom is the earnest prayer, Madam, of your Majesty's humble and devoted servant, NORA ROBERTS.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

OSBORNE, 3rd Feb. 1900.—The Queen thanks Lord Lansdowne for his letter of January 29th enclosing the new proposals for increasing the Army. She will be very glad to issue a Proclamation calling upon those who have been in the Army to serve again. The Queen only trusts that the men will be obtainable to furnish twelve battalions and forty-seven batteries: if not, higher pay must be offered. The Cavalry regiments are so few that all should *always* be on a war footing.

The Queen repeats that all the Militia should be embodied, and she feels tolerably certain that the ballot must be enforced, as otherwise the Line and Militia compete against each other. The Militia *must* be brought up to its proper strength. The Commander-in-Chief would rather have the Militia in billets than not embodied. Now is the moment to take advantage of the military spirit so strongly evinced throughout the Empire, and the Government ought to profit in every way by an opportunity which may never occur again.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Queen Victoria.

WAR OFFICE, 4th Feb. 1900.—Lord Lansdowne presents his humble duty to the Queen, and he learns with much pleasure that your Majesty approves of

the idea of forming "veteran" battalions. The Prime Minister, whom he has consulted as to the procedure to be followed, considers that the occasion is not one upon which your Majesty should be asked to issue a Proclamation to the country. Such a course would be too suggestive of the idea that we were in a position of extremity and therefore obliged to make what should be regarded as a supreme effort, using for the purpose your Majesty's name.

In these circumstances Lord Lansdowne, concurring as he does with the Prime Minister, would prefer to issue an army order inviting ex-soldiers to re-enter the service on a short engagement.

Lord Lansdowne thinks with your Majesty that, unless the situation alters greatly, the remainder of the Militia should be embodied; seventy-three battalions have been embodied already. But the objections to billeting are very serious, and Lord Lansdowne would prefer to make arrangements for embodying all battalions that may not be embodied within the next few weeks, say, in the month of April, and placing them under canvas. Our barracks are all full, and this may, Lord Lansdowne thinks, be regarded as evidence that the country is not so denuded of troops as some people suppose.

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to Mr. Balfour.*

OSBORNE, 4th Feb. 1900.—The Queen must urge again on Mr. Balfour very strongly the necessity of resisting these unpatriotic and unjust criticisms of our Generals and of the conduct of the war. If the Government are firm and courageous the country will support them. If not, the number of Boer spies will telegraph back to South Africa, and great harm will be done. You must *all* show a firm front, and not let it be for a moment supposed that we vacillate in the least. An enquiry after the war itself is over can be held out, but not now. No doubt the War Office is greatly at fault, but it is the whole system which must be changed, and that cannot be just now.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 5th Feb. 1900.—Mr. Balfour with his humble duty to your Majesty begs humbly to inform your Majesty that, in answer to your Majesty's letter, he is of opinion that the House of Commons will support the Government in refusing any investigation into circumstances connected with war until the war itself be practically concluded. He further believes that both the House and the country are quite determined to bring the war to a successful issue, whatever sacrifice such a policy may involve. Nothing that occurred in to-night's debate¹ seems to militate against this view. Sir W. Harcourt began with an elaborate speech. To Mr. Balfour it did not seem at all inferior to the many speeches which Sir William has delivered in the last few years. But it was received with a strange and unexpected coldness by the House, and seemed to please none of the many sections into which the Opposition is divided. Mr. Chamberlain followed. He dealt very briefly with Sir William's long historical disquisition, going back as it did to 1881 ; but though he dealt with it briefly, he dealt with it effectively. His speech was on the broadest lines ; and no part of it was more impressive and eloquent than those passages in which he dwelt upon the imperial patriotism elicited from our Colonies by the present crisis, and the resolve of the country to see the contest pressed on to a successful termination. . . .

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

5th Feb. 1900.—Pray insist on the utmost secrecy as to the intended movements of Sir R. Buller and Lord Roberts. Sure they are incautious in the office, as things have [been] known which ought not, and the country is full of spies.

¹ On an amendment to the Address, moved by the Opposition leader.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Queen Victoria.
[Telegram.]

WAR OFFICE, 5th Feb. 1900.—I admit the necessity of the precautions which your Majesty suggests, and shall take them. LANSDOWNE.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.
[Cypher Telegram.]

5th Feb. 1900.—Lord Lansdowne says you do not approve of Proclamation for raising Veteran battalions. Most earnestly beg you will reconsider this, as Commander-in-Chief bases success of scheme, which is his own, on this condition, and I am most anxious it should not fail, which is possible unless I am personally identified with the appeal.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.
[Cypher Telegram.]

5th Feb. 1900.—Humble duty. The matter is, of course, one entirely for your Majesty to decide. The use of your name in an appeal of this kind is a very powerful instrument; but it may be required in an emergency later on, and it would be a pity to diminish its force by using it where it does not seem to be urgently necessary. I was informed this evening that Lord Wolseley was of opinion that the use of your name was not necessary. But I will not offer any objection to any course your Majesty may decide on in the matter.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.
[Cypher Telegram.]

6th Feb. 1900.—As you do not think there is urgent necessity to use my name in the appeal, and if Secretary of State for War is confident that the necessary numbers will be forthcoming without using it, and if Lord Wolseley does not consider it necessary, I will no longer urge proposal. My only wish is to avoid failure.

[Telegram.] *Queen Victoria to the Mayor of Mafeking.*¹

6th Feb. 1900.—Thank you for telegram. With me the whole nation watches with admiration and confidence your cheerful determined defence. Trust sick and wounded are progressing.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

10 DOWNING STREET, 7th Feb. 1900.—Mr. Balfour with his humble duty to your Majesty begs humbly to inform your Majesty that the debate on the vote of censure ended last night with a triumphant victory for the Government. Mr. Balfour doubts whether there is a case in our recent annals of a motion proposed under such circumstances from the front Opposition bench being thrown out by a majority of 213.

The principal speaker on the Opposition side was Mr. Asquith. He always has at his command an easy and admirable choice of language, and Mr. Balfour invariably listens to him with a certain measure of admiration, even when he most differs from him. But Mr. Asquith's task was on this occasion beyond the power even of the most skilful orator; for he had to explain how, while agreeing with Government, he was yet, in a moment of national emergency, going to vote against them. In such a cause no advocacy could be successful. After a large number of speeches had been delivered, two of them (by Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. John Burns) of extraordinary violence, Sir H. Bannerman rose to conclude the debate for the Opposition. His gifts, which are considerable, do not specially qualify him for this kind of effort; he had no easy duty to fulfil, and it cannot be said that he rose to the occasion. Mr. Balfour, in replying for the Government, did not deem it necessary to refer to anything he had said; but contented himself with dealing on broad lines with the present position of affairs and the duty which the

¹ See above, p. 477.

House of Commons owe to the country in a moment of national difficulty. The division took place soon after twelve; and its result was received with loud and prolonged cheering.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 7th Feb. 1900.—When I came in received a satisfactory telegram from Sir R. Buller, that he *had* crossed the Tugela with little opposition or heavy loss, and had occupied a position in the line of the Boer defence. Though subjected to a heavy cross fire, he was hopeful to be able to thrust the enemy back on one side or the other, thus getting through. This is so far satisfactory. Also heard that Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener had left Cape Town. The Lord Chancellor, come for one night, Annie R[oxburghe], Sir F. and Lady Edwards, Sir J. McNeill, and Major Colbourne dined. Had a good deal of talk with the Lord Chancellor, who was as delighted as I was at the large majority the night before, 213, and at the enormous majority at York of 1,500 for Mr. Faber,¹ the Unionist member.

8th Feb.—Just before tea received the casualty list from the fighting of the 5th and 6th, mercifully an extremely small number. A ladies dinner. All, including myself, are working for the soldiers.

The Prince of Wales to Queen Victoria.

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, 8th February 1900.

MY DEAREST MAMA,—I enclose a letter² I received two days ago from William with his Mem. on our

¹ Afterwards created Lord Wittenham. This was a by-election.

² The letter and a translation of the accompanying Memorandum are printed in full in Sidney Lee's *King Edward VII*, i, pp. 755-756 and 807-810, along with a previous set of notes on the war which the German Emperor sent to the Prince of Wales on 21st December 1899. The last two paragraphs ran as follows: "21. The course sketched under 19 [suspension of the British advance in South Africa until reinforcements rendered possible the concentration of an overwhelming army] requires much time, perhaps till next autumn, but it might be of advantage to the Army, and extricate it from its present unfavourable situation. Of course it would be wise policy to place such a *respite* for the

present military situation in South Africa. I also send a translation which I thought would be a convenience in case you would wish it shown to Lords Salisbury and Lansdowne. Perhaps you would like to have copies made of them and return me the originals. I would call your attention to the last two paragraphs, in which he hints broadly that foreign Powers might intervene!

In answering his letter to-day I told him I could not liken our conflict with the Boers to our defeat last year by the Australians in the cricket matches we played against them, as we were fighting for the very existence of our Empire, which he knew full well, and that we must use every effort to prove victorious for the sake of our supremacy in South Africa. . . .

Hoping that you are careful not to catch cold, I remain, your devoted and affectionate son, BERTIE.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 11th Feb. 1900.—Service at eleven, performed by Mr. Clement Smith. This Sunday being specially set apart for prayers and intercessions on behalf of our troops in South Africa, for the success of our operations, for the sick and wounded and those in sorrow at home, we also had part of the service which has been specially compiled by the Archbishop. There were some very fine prayers, a special intercession had been added to the Litany, and the hymns were, "O God, our help in ages past," "For our valiant soldiers, Lord, to Thee we pray," and "Father Almighty, King of Life and Power," which latter I had not heard before. Mr. Clement Smith read beauti-

Army in absolute safety against foreign Powers, the attainment of which in the present situation of the world appears somewhat doubtful. The present position of the war does not allow of doing anything decisive from the military point of view. If therefore diplomacy cannot guarantee absolutely to secure the respite just referred to, it would certainly be better to bring matters to a settlement. 22. Even the best football club, if it is beaten notwithstanding the most gallant defence, accepts finally its defeat with equanimity. Last year, in the great cricket match of England v. Australia, the former took the victory of the latter quietly, with chivalrous acknowledgment of her opponent."



*H. R. H. The Prince of Wales, 'R' G
shortly before his accession
From the original in the Royal Library Windsor*

fully, and preached a fine sermon. The whole was very impressive.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.
[Cypher Telegram.]

11th Feb. 1900.—Thanks for your report on yesterday's Cabinet. Must express regret that after approving actual wording of Proclamation, Government have withheld it.

The safety of the country is our first and most pressing consideration, and we ought not to be over-apprehensive as to causing public alarm so long as we feel the precautions are necessary. I am no alarmist; but lately we have been deceived by the Boers, and are suffering accordingly.

You make no mention of the Militia, which is the Constitutional Force of the country, and ought to be improved and kept up to its strength. Why will you not call the whole force out? It could be done. Trust the Commander-in-Chief is consulted on all military matters, including the Government scheme.

12th Feb.—Did you receive my letter of the 10th? Regret want of agreement in Cabinet about employment of Indian troops.

Not only have Boers invaded Zululand, but employed natives to fight against us. Surely this justifies our using Indians. Do remember the enormous native population in Natal, and consider the effect of our not standing by the Zulus. Am greatly concerned at the news from Kimberley and at disagreement between Sir R. Buller and Lord Roberts, but I agree with the latter's views. Cannot help feeling disappointed at my repeated recommendations being disregarded.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 12th Feb. 1900.—Lord Salisbury . . . regrets very much that he has entirely failed to persuade people of influence in this country and in India of the danger which they run by not paying sufficient attention to the feelings of Indians, espe-

cially of the Indian Princes. It is a grave error, for which some day this country will pay dear.

But for Lord Salisbury to "put his foot down" on a question where the great majority of his Cabinet, and all the leading officials of both India Office and War Office are against him, would mean breaking up the Government, at a time when your Majesty might have difficulty in forming another, and on an issue which, when it became known, as it would certainly do, would create serious discontent in India.

The telegrams which your Majesty will have received from the War Office show that Lord Roberts has quite lost confidence in General Buller. If your Majesty's recollection is correct, and Lord Salisbury did really dissuade you from appointing Kitchener, he deeply regrets it. But his own recollection is that he was never told that your Majesty recommended Kitchener; and never knew it till you mentioned it the other day at Windsor. Though there was then no ground for believing that Buller would fail so seriously as he has done, it was a mistake to appoint a man who had never been tried with any independent command of importance. But for that mistake Lord Salisbury is quite as responsible as any other of your Majesty's advisers.

Queen Victoria to Mr. Chamberlain.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

14th Feb. 1900.—Please let me know what steps you intend to take to protect the Zulus from being attacked by the Boers. Feel certain you agree with me that we are bound in honour to stand by my native subjects.

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

15th Feb. 1900.—Mr. Chamberlain with his humble duty to your Majesty begs to inform your Majesty that Lord Lansdowne is telegraphing to General Buller to know what provision he is making for the defence of Zululand. Recent telegrams from Gover-

nor of Natal indicate that the invasion is not serious, and that the Boers are not at present attacking the Zulus, but only British posts in their country, but Mr. Chamberlain hopes that troops may be spared to expel the invaders.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 16th Feb. 1900.—While we were at breakfast a telegram arrived with the most welcome and almost unexpected news of the relief of Kimberley. The following is what Lord Roberts telegraphed from Jacobsdal to Lord Lansdowne: "French, with horse artillery, cavalry, and mounted infantry, reached Kimberley this evening." Went to Ryde in the afternoon to visit the Infirmary. After tea received the following satisfactory telegrams: Lord Roberts wires from Jacobsdal, 16th February: "French telegraphs: 'Have completely dispersed enemy from southern side of Kimberley, from Alexandersfontein to Oliphantsfontein, and now occupy their ground. Have captured enemy laager, store depot of supplies and ammunition. Kimberley cheerful and well.'" Lord Roberts telegraphs further: "Have good reason for belief that the Magersfontein trenches have been abandoned, and that the Boers are endeavouring to escape. French is scouring the country north of Kimberley. One of Kenny's brigades of infantry is in pursuit of very large Boer convoy, moving towards Bloemfontein."

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 16th Feb. 1900.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty to your Majesty respectfully submits that a Cabinet was held yesterday. . . . It was not possible to make any progress with the matter which very justly interests your Majesty so much, namely, the employment in Zululand of coloured, and specially of Indian, troops. Since last Cabinet the Colonial Secretary has been in communication with the Government of Natal on this subject. Lord

Salisbury ventures to enclose—though probably your Majesty has already received them—the two most important telegrams of this correspondence. From these it will appear that, in spite of the efforts of the Governor under the instructions of Mr. Chamberlain, the Natal Government are unanimously opposed to the employment of *any* native troops, and especially of any Indian troops. It was generally felt that it would not be wise, and scarcely right, to quarrel at this juncture with a Colony which has been so loyal as Natal, and which has suffered so much for its loyalty. But this ineradicable race prejudice is deeply to be regretted. . . .

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Queen Victoria.

WAR OFFICE, 16th Feb. 1900.—Lord Lansdowne presents his humble duty to the Queen, and he has the honour to inform your Majesty that the Cabinet yesterday authorised the payment to the “veterans,” whom it is proposed to raise as “Reserve Battalions,” of a bounty of £12 on enrolment, and £10 at the conclusion of their year’s service. This offer should, Lord Lansdowne thinks, attract a good number of men, especially as it will be made known that the demands upon their time will be far from excessive. Their service will of course be at home only.

Lord Lansdowne has always regretted that the proposal that your Majesty should invite these men by Royal Proclamation was abandoned. He ventures, however, to suggest for your Majesty’s consideration that the success of the scheme would be greatly increased if your Majesty were pleased, either by an announcement in the newspapers, such as is sometimes made by your command, or by a letter written to the Commander-in-Chief and signed by Sir Arthur Bigge, to express your approval of the scheme, and your hope that the invitation would be promptly and numerously responded to. It was the *form* rather than the *substance* of the Proclamation to which exception was taken.

Lord Lansdowne may explain that the £22 which the "veteran" will receive is almost exactly the equivalent of the extra pay which the Commander-in-Chief recommended. Should your Majesty think well to order that these battalions are to be styled "Royal Reserve Battalions," their popularity would certainly be increased.

Lord Lansdowne offers his congratulations to your Majesty on the brilliant commencement of Lord Roberts's operations.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

[Telegram.]

16th Feb. 1900.—Thank you for your letter of to-day, the contents of which seem to be quite satisfactory. I will gladly act on the lines suggested.

I am indeed delighted at and thankful for Lord Roberts's successful operations.

[Telegram.] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

HUBERTUSSTOCK, 16th Feb. 1900.—Beg to place sincerest thanks at your feet for the great news. How happy Mr. Rhodes¹ will be! . . . WILLIAM.

[Telegram.] *Sir Edmund Fane² to Queen Victoria.*

COPENHAGEN, 17th Feb. 1900.—Humble duty. The King was so gracious as to call in person at your Majesty's Legation this afternoon in order to impart to me the news of the relief of Kimberley, and to express his deep pleasure at the success of your Majesty's arms. EDMUND FANE.

[Copy.] *Sir Arthur Bigge to Viscount Wolseley.*

OSBORNE, 17th February 1900.

MY DEAR LORD WOLSELEY,—As so large a proportion of the Army is now in South Africa, the Queen fully realises that necessary measures must be adopted for Home Defence.

Her Majesty is advised that it would be possible

¹ Mr. Rhodes was in Kimberley throughout the siege.

² Minister at Copenhagen.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 23rd Feb. 1900.—After luncheon saw poor Lady Roberts, who was very overcome at seeing me, but was wonderfully calm. She expressed herself as most grateful for my sympathy. She said how pleased Lord Roberts was with Lord Kitchener. I then conferred on her the order of the Crown of India, which she said she felt she did not deserve, but that nothing would give Lord Roberts more pleasure than her receiving it. I also saw her second daughter, who seems very nice.

[Telegram.] *Lord Roberts to Sir Arthur Bigge.*

PAARDEBERG, 26th Feb. 1900.—Following message received from General French: "Cavalry division received your Majesty's most gracious message with pride, enthusiasm. On their behalf General French asks leave tender their grateful sense your Majesty's recognition their services." ROBERTS.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 27th Feb. 1900.—Received during breakfast the following telegram: "General Cronje and his whole force capitulated at daybreak this morning, unconditionally. He is now a prisoner in my camp. Hope H.M.'s Government will consider this satisfactory, occurring as it does on the anniversary of Majuba. ROBERTS." We are all greatly rejoiced, for it is indeed grand news.

At 11.20 left for Netley. Sir Baker Russell received us at the station, and the principal authorities received us at the door of the hospital. Went up in the lift to the second floor, where all the wounded were assembled, almost all, with few exceptions, being able to stand in the corridors. They looked wonderfully well, considering how badly they had been wounded. Far the greatest number were from the Highland Brigade, which suffered so at Magersfontein. I handed flowers to those in bed. There were a good many Guardsmen, and also men from the Irish

regiments. Then we went to the wards and corridors in which were the sick. It was sad to see so many with heart disease brought on by overmarching and hard work.

Another long telegram arrived from Lord Roberts, saying that the prisoners numbered 4,000, and six guns were taken. Cronje had asked to be kindly treated, and that his wife, grandson, secretary, adjutant, and servants might be with him wherever he was sent. This was granted, and they were all despatched yesterday to Cape Town. Georgie, May, and their children arrived during the evening.

[*Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to Lord Roberts.*

WINDSOR CASTLE, 27th Feb. 1900.—Accept for yourself and all under your command my warmest congratulations on this splendid news. V. R. I.

[*Telegram.*] *Lord Roberts to Queen Victoria.*

PAARDEBERG, 28th Feb. 1900.—I and all under my command are deeply grateful for your Majesty's most gracious message. The congratulations of their Queen is an honour soldiers dearly prize. LORD ROBERTS.

[*Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to Sir Redvers Buller.*

27th Feb. 1900.—I have heard with the deepest concern of the heavy losses sustained by my brave Irish soldiers. I desire to express my sympathy and my admiration of the splendid fighting qualities which they have exhibited throughout these trying operations. V. R. I.

[*Telegram.*] *Sir Redvers Buller to Queen Victoria.*

HEADQUARTERS, HLANGWANI PLAIN, 28th Feb. 1900.—Sir Redvers Buller has, on the part of the Irish Brigade, to thank the Queen for her gracious telegram of sympathy and encouragement. GENERAL BULLER.

[*Telegram.*] *The Queen of Sweden to Queen Victoria.*

STOCKHOLM, 28th Feb. 1900.—I cannot refrain from expressing my heartfelt sympathy and congratu-

lations on the splendid successes of your Majesty's troops, hoping they will contribute to the speedy conclusion of peace. The King joins with me in expressions of sympathy. SOPHIE.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 1st March 1900.—Before I got up Lizzie Stewart, my wardrobe maid, came in saying the telegraph boy had just come in with a telegram he was anxious I should have at once. It was as follows: "Dundonald with Natal Carabineers and composite regiment entered Ladysmith last night. The country between me and there is reported clear of the enemy. I am moving on Nelthorpe. BULLER." My joy was unbounded, and I let everyone in the Castle know, and telegraphed to the relations. Telegraphed to Sir R. Buller and to his wife. Telegrams poured in all day from public bodies and private people.

After luncheon I had an Investiture, Georgie standing by me and assisting me in putting on the decorations, and I used his sword for the few knight-hoods.

Received another telegram from Sir R. Buller saying, "I have just returned from Ladysmith, where I found the garrison on $\frac{1}{2}$ a lb. of meal a day, supplemented by horse flesh. The men will require a little nursing before being fit for service in the field again."

The only Sovereign who telegraphed spontaneously was the King of Sweden.

Viscount Wolseley to Queen Victoria.

1st March 1900.—Lord Wolseley presents his humble duty to the Queen, and ventures to congratulate her Majesty upon the success of her soldiers in relieving Ladysmith. Lord Wolseley feels that the Queen's appreciation of the gallant services rendered by her Irish soldiers will have a magical effect upon that sentimental and imaginative race all over the world.

Acting upon the Queen's initiative in this matter, Lord Wolseley would presume to suggest that the Queen should now order all her Irish regiments to wear the "shamrock" in their head-dress on the 17th instant, to be worn by all her Irish regiments in future years on Saint Patrick's Day as a mark of her Majesty's appreciation of the daring displayed by her loyal Irish soldiers in the recent operations near Ladysmith. Every year, Irish Members of Parliament make much capital out of the fact that Irish regiments are not allowed to wear this shamrock, which Irishmen generally recognise as a national emblem.

If the Queen approves of this suggestion I would have that approval telegraphed to South Africa without delay. I have the honour to be, her Majesty's humble and most faithful servant, WOLSELEY.

The King of Portugal to Queen Victoria.

LISBONNE, 1^{er} Mars 1900.

MA CHÈRE TANTE,—Je viens de savoir à l'instant par dépêche de Soveral l'heureuse nouvelle de la libération de Ladysmith, après le siège héroïque que vos vaillants soldats ont supporté avec tant de courage et d'abnégation !

Cette nouvelle, venant tout de suite après celle de la reddition de Cronje, doit avoir rempli de joie votre cœur !

Je vous prie, chère Tante, d'accepter mes plus sincères félicitations, envoyées de tout cœur, et de me croire toujours votre neveu respectueux et dévoué qui vous baise la main, CARLOS.

Lord Curzon to Queen Victoria.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, CALCUTTA, 1st March 1900.—. . . The news of the grand victories in South Africa has been coming in. Lord Roberts's success two days ago, the relief of Ladysmith just now. Lord Roberts's statue in the Maidan is covered with garlands and wreaths ; and the natives are just as pleased as ourselves.

We sent off our batch of Indian volunteers a few days ago ; and the public, who gathered in thousands, gave them a great farewell.

How gratifying it must be to your Majesty to see the tide turning at last ! It is a recompense for all the anxiety and losses of the past few months, and for the insults which have been heaped upon England by the foreign Press. . . .

[*Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to Sir George White.*

WINDSOR CASTLE, 1st March 1900.—Thank God that you and all those with you are safe after your long and trying siege borne with such heroism, and I congratulate you and all under you from the bottom of my heart. Trust you are all not very much exhausted. V. R. I.

[*Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to Lady White.*

WINDSOR CASTLE, 1st March 1900.—Accept my warmest congratulations on this delightful news, of the relief of Ladysmith, and the safety of your most gallant husband, and all under him. His heroism was splendid. Sir R. Buller and all under him have had a fearfully difficult and trying task, which has been most admirably accomplished. V. R. I.¹

[*Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to Sir Redvers Buller.*

2nd March 1900.—Hope General White and his force are fairly well. Trust you and your troops not too much done up after your great exertions. Pray express my deep appreciation to the Naval Brigade for the valuable services they have rendered with their guns. V. R. I.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 2nd March 1900.—Just before luncheon received the following touching answer from Sir G. White to my telegram expressing my

¹ Lady White replied by telegram : "Your Majesty's gracious message crowns my happiness."

admiration for the way in which they had borne this fearful long siege : " Your Majesty's most gracious message has been received by me with deepest gratitude and with enthusiasm by the troops. Any privations and hardships are 100 times compensated by the sympathy and appreciation of our Queen, and your Majesty's message will do more to restore both officers and men than anything else."

3rd March.—Arthur and Louischen left this morning, and I had a long conversation with him about my going abroad, which I fear will not be advisable or safe just now, and about a possible idea of mine to go to Ireland, if I cannot go to the south.

Received a telegram from Sir R. Buller in answer to mine in which he says : " Troops much appreciate your Majesty's kind telegram. Your Majesty cannot know how much your sympathy has helped to inspire them." I also heard from General Brocklehurst in which he said : " General Buller has just ridden in ; his face was fair to look upon." This made us laugh very much.

[*Telegram.*] *The Mayor of Ladysmith to Queen Victoria.*

3rd March 1900.—The Mayor and Town Council and lately besieged residents beg most respectfully to express to your Most Gracious Majesty the Queen the unfeigned feelings of joy and thankfulness occasioned by the relief of the town, also to express to your Majesty the unbounded loyalty of your people and their highest admiration of the brilliant achievements gained by your Majesty's brave soldiers over a formidable enemy.

Queen Victoria to the Mayor and People of Ladysmith.

[*Telegram.*]

5th March 1900.—I thank you for your loyal message, and greatly rejoice with you at your relief which, through the gallant perseverance of my troops, has been accomplished after the long and trying siege, which, to the admiration of the whole Empire, you have so patiently and bravely endured.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Sir Arthur Bigge.

BOWOOD, 3rd March 1900.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—The fine conduct of the Irish regiments during the war and her Majesty's gracious interest in them suggested to several of us the idea that the time might have come when the Queen might be pleased to authorise the creation of a regiment of Irish Guards. I believe such a step would be popular in Ireland and with the Army, and that it would have the effect of giving us a very valuable accession of strength.

I had intended to approach her Majesty on this subject after I had had time to go closely into the question and to work out the details of a proposal. But I see that Sir J. W. Maclure, M.P., has put down a question on the subject for Tuesday next, and no time ought therefore to be lost in ascertaining whether her Majesty is upon the whole favourable or unfavourable to the project.

If the Queen has no objection the answer might be something of this sort: "Proposal of this kind is about to be submitted to her Majesty," and, if the Queen so desired, we could add, "and there is every reason to anticipate that it will be favourably entertained."

I write from Bowood, but return to London on Monday. Yours sincerely, LANSDOWNE.

Sir Arthur Bigge to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

[Copy.]

WINDSOR CASTLE, 5th March 1900.

MY DEAR LORD LANSDOWNE,—By a curious coincidence the Queen has during the past week been seriously considering the question of a regiment of Irish Guards, thinking that the present was an opportunity for its creation. Therefore I am glad to be able to tell you that the Queen entirely approves of the idea and of your proposed reply to be given to Sir J. W. Maclure's question in the House of Commons on Tuesday next.

Her Majesty asked the Duke of Connaught to

speak to the Commander-in-Chief on the subject, and hopes that you will therefore find that Lord Wolseley is already in possession of her Majesty's views. Yours very truly, ARTHUR BIGGE.

The King of the Belgians to Queen Victoria.

CHÂTEAU DE LAEKEN, 4 Mars 1900.

MA CHÈRE COUSINE,—Daignez me permettre de déposer à vos pieds la nouvelle expression de mon admiration pour l'endurance, le courage et toutes les superbes qualités de vos armées. C'est là chez moi un bien ancien sentiment, et je ne fais que saisir l'occasion de vous en redire la sincérité. L'habileté de Ld. Roberts lui a valu des succès signalés, rapides et de la plus haute importance.

Ce qui frappe encore, chère Cousine, c'est le patriotisme effectif non seulement du peuple de la Grande Bretagne mais aussi de ses Colonies et dépendances, et les qualités militaires des contingents du Canada, de l'Australie et des autres. Ce spectacle est grandiose et unique.

Nul Empire plus que le vôtre, chère Cousine, fort de ses forces qui comprennent une si notable partie de l'humanité, n'est davantage en situation pour contribuer au bonheur du monde, au développement de sa prospérité et aux progrès des idées généreuses et de justice entre les nations.

Je vous baise la main, chère Cousine, et je suis pour la vie, votre tout dévoué cousin, LÉOPOLD.

The Prince of Wales to Queen Victoria.

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, 5th March 1900.

MY DEAREST MAMA,—The enclosed letter¹ I have received from William to-day, and send it you at once, and perhaps you will let Lord Salisbury see it. The conduct of Mouravieff is really *too* monstrous. How long will the long-suffering Nicky be taken in by him?

¹ The principal part of this letter of 3rd March is printed in *King Edward VII*, vol. i, p. 769, revealing a proposal of Count Mouravieff for collective action to enforce peace.

William, I am sure, wishes to be our true friend, and he indeed deserves our thanks and confidence.

Now let me thank you for writing to tell me that you have given up your intention of going to Italy this spring. It is, I am sure, a wise decision for so many reasons, though I regret your missing the fine climate, sunshine, and blue sky. Georgy has told me in confidence of your idea of going to Ireland next month. I rejoice to hear of it, as it will, I am sure, have the best possible effect, and interest you also in so many ways! Vicky has also written to me that she hopes you will not go abroad, though she forgoes the great pleasure of seeing you, but says she will make an effort to come over and see you. If she makes the journey by slow stages I hope it will do her no harm. . . .

You will, I am sure, urge your Government to be firm, should the Boers and Freestaters treat for peace. We must impose the conditions, however unpleasant they must be for them, so as to prevent the recurrence of such a war again, and not allow any foreign Power to intervene!

With Alix's best love, I remain, your devoted and affectionate son, BERTIE.

Viscount Wolseley to Sir Arthur Bigge.

5th March 1900.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—Does the Queen approve of the enclosed proposed General Order? I want to emphasise as much as possible that this is a personal gift of distinction from the Sovereign to her Irish regiments. The Welsh Fusiliers wear the leek on St. David's Day and the Northumberland Fusiliers cover themselves with roses upon St. George's Day.

If the Queen approves, would you kindly telegraph this to me to-morrow, and I will have it specially issued, and will telegraph it to Lord Roberts for promulgation in General Orders in South Africa.

You can easily telegraph to me any corrections the Queen may wish to have made in the wording. Very sincerely yours, WOLSELEY.

[*Draft-enclosure.*] ARMY ORDER.

Special.

WAR OFFICE, 7th March 1900.

The following Instruction is promulgated to the Army with the approval of the Secretary of State for War.

GALLANTRY OF IRISH REGIMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA—DISTINCTION TO BE WORN ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

Her Majesty the Queen is pleased to order that in future, upon St. Patrick's Day, all ranks in her Majesty's Irish regiments shall wear, as a distinction, a sprig of shamrock in their head-dress, to commemorate the gallantry of her Irish soldiers during the recent battles in South Africa.

WOLSELEY F.-M., *Commander-in-Chief.*

Lieutenant Zaverthal to Sir Arthur Bigge.

WOOLWICH, 5th March 1900.

SIR,—I had the great honour of receiving my Commission to-day from Colonel Barrington Foote ; and it has the most precious signature of the Queen !

It is quite impossible for me to express how proud and happy I am in its possession ; I can hardly realise that it is really mine. I am, sir, yours obediently,
LADISLAO ZAVERTAL.¹

Earl Cadogan to Queen Victoria.

DUBLIN CASTLE, 6th March 1900.—The Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and begs to be allowed to express his heartfelt gratitude to your Majesty for the gracious intimation which he has this day received through his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught.

The announcement of your Majesty's intention to pay a visit to Ireland will be received with unbounded loyalty and pleasure by your Majesty's subjects in this country ; and the Lord-Lieutenant cannot doubt that the conspicuous mark of favour which your

¹ See above, p. 417.

Majesty proposes to confer upon the people of Ireland will be enthusiastically welcomed by them. The Lord-Lieutenant ventures to add that he will use his utmost endeavours to obey your Majesty's commands, and to render the royal visit as agreeable to your Majesty as possible.

The Duke of Connaught intimated that your Majesty would inhabit the Viceregal Lodge, which can at once be prepared for the reception of your Majesty's establishment.

The Lord-Lieutenant begs humbly to suggest that if the announcement of the royal visit might be made without delay, he could proceed at once to make the arrangements which must of necessity be carried out. He will therefore await the favour of your Majesty's commands as to the time and manner of publication of your Majesty's decision, after which he will lose no time in giving all instructions to those concerned. The Lord-Lieutenant believes that it will be quite possible to have everything in readiness by the date indicated by the Duke of Connaught, which was understood to be about a month from the present time. He begs to add that in this, as in all other matters, he places his humble services at the entire disposal of your Majesty.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

7th March 1900.—. . . It had better be announced as soon as possible, as it is certain to get out. I should think the announcement had better be informal, like the announcement of your Majesty's intention not to go to Italy. If it is thought necessary that it should be done in a formal manner, a letter to the Viceroy would be the best method. But as the visit is not a State visit, I prefer the informal plan.

[*Same day.*].—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully thanks your Majesty for having allowed him to see the Prince of Wales's letter, including that of the Emperor William and that of Lord Cadogan. . . .

Count Mouraviëff's proceedings are very inexplicable. It is impossible to believe that he accurately represents the feelings of the Emperor of Russia.

Your Majesty will before this have received the translation of the remarkable message from the two Presidents.¹ It coincides curiously with the message of the Emperor of Russia to the Emperor of Germany. They are evidently part of the same movement intended to operate on the minds of the pro-Boer people in this country. These are not many, but they are noisy.

[*Copy.*] *Queen Victoria to the German Emperor.*

WINDSOR CASTLE, 7th March 1900.

DEAR WILLIAM,—I wish to thank you for your last kind letter, sent through Colonel Grierson, and at the same time for your kind and friendly expressions and views of the war in South Africa, as expressed both to Uncle Bertie and Sir Frank Lascelles.

I sincerely hope that your example may at last be followed by other Powers, and that the German Press may cease abusing and reviling us and telling lies about our army. Under these circumstances, while affairs, including the war, are so uncertain, I have given up going abroad, but intend paying a visit to Ireland quite early next month.

The marvellous and most gratifying loyalty and devotion of my Indian Empire and the Colonies is a most important and satisfactory event.

You must admire, I am sure, not only Sir G. White but Sir Redvers Buller, whose task was most difficult, and also Lord Roberts, so ably supported by Lord Kitchener. . . . V. R. I.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE, 8th March 1900.—Left Windsor at half-past eleven with Beatrice and Thora, Emily A[mpthill], Marie M[allet], the equerries, Colonel Legge and Colonel Davidson, in attendance.

¹ See Introductory Note to this chapter.

At the station at Paddington an Irish terrier, who carries a collecting box and goes round to everybody for money, came into the saloon, and I put £1 into the box, for which he gave three barks, to express his thanks.

We three drove the usual way to Buckingham Palace, and I received a perfect ovation from thousands and thousands of people assembled along the whole route. There were deafening cheers and waving of handkerchiefs and small flags, quite indescribably enthusiastic. It was most touching. I drove in through the principal gate, like for a triumphal entry, and inside the quadrangle were assembled Members of the House of Lords and House of Commons, who cheered very much, and sang *God Save the Queen*. Lord Cross and Mr. Chamberlain, who were at the head, came up to the carriage to speak to me for a moment, as did also Lady Audrey Buller and her daughter, who had been standing outside with some other ladies. Got some good news from Lord Roberts, who had completely routed the Boers,¹ having turned their flank. They had a very strong position, which would have caused us much loss had we been obliged to make a frontal attack. No end of letters and telegrams of all kinds coming in, some such kind ones.

At a quarter to four started with Lenchen and Beatrice, who sat opposite to me, Thora following in a second carriage with Emily A., Marie M., and Colonel Davidson, for the City. Colonel Legge rode, and I had a travelling escort of the Blues. There were deafening cheers from a huge crowd outside the Palace. We proceeded up the Mall, Northumberland Avenue to the Embankment, at the end of which, near to Blackfriars, stood the Lord Mayor and Aldermen in full robes. We stopped, and he came up to the carriage to present his sword, which I touched. He expressed his loyalty and devotion, and I said I was very grateful for all the City had done, to which he replied that he would cherish my words for ever and ever in his

¹ At Poplar's Grove, on the march to Bloemfontein.

breast. I then shook hands with the Lady Mayoress, and we went on by Ludgate Hill and Circus, Holborn, Oxford Street, the Marble Arch, through the park, then down Piccadilly and St. James's Street back to the Palace. Everywhere the same enormous crowds and incessant demonstrations of enthusiasm; if possible, even beyond that of the two Jubilees.

It was getting a little cold by the time we came home, but not unpleasantly so. There were many flags hung out and across the streets. Had tea together. The news continue very satisfactory. Lord Roberts telegraphs that Kruger and Steyn were supposed to have been with the Boers in the last battle. During dinner there was a great deal of cheering and singing outside, and I went to the window, a light being held behind me. The cheering was tremendous. There were several thousand people assembled.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 8th March 1900.—MR. Balfour with his humble duty to your Majesty hopes he is not going beyond his duty in informing your Majesty how great was the gratification of Members of the House of Commons at having the opportunity of taking part in the reception which the Metropolis this day gave to your Majesty. Mr. Balfour himself, to his deep regret, was not present. He rather feared that the presence either of Mr. Speaker or of the leader of the House might give an air of pre-arrangement and formality to a proceeding which was essentially informal and spontaneous in its character. But he has been at pains to gauge the feelings of Members of the House of Commons, and he can speak, therefore, with confidence as to the enthusiasm which animated all parties in the legislature on the occasion.

Two incidents of special interest occurred before the regular business of the evening commenced. One was the statement by Mr. Balfour that your Majesty proposed to sanction the formation of an Irish regi-

the latter said he quite expected. I also sent a private cypher to Sir Frank Lascelles asking him to explain our position to William.

[Telegram.] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

HELIGOLAND, 11th March 1900.—Through the medium of my Consulate at Pretoria the Transvaal Government has telegraphed *en clair* to the Foreign Office in Berlin asking my Government for a “friendly intervention” on behalf of the South African Republics and the restoration of peace. I have ordered the Foreign Office to answer as follows :

The first and paramount question to be settled before steps for “Friendly Mediation” could be taken was whether *both* antagonists were ready to accept it, *i.e.* whether England was also ready to do so. Only in case this question should have been answered in the affirmative my Government would of course be happy to lend a hand to bring about a peaceful issue. My Government further suggests that the Republics would do well, in order to find out whether her Majesty’s Government just now would be in a mood to accept mediation at all, to directly enquire in London; and, if this did not suit them, to refer to any third Power not vitally interested in South Africa, Germany being materially interested. It was the duty of my Government to refrain from taking any steps in this matter which would be liable to be misunderstood in England, and which could give rise to the suspicion that we were prompted by other than purely humanitarian motives. This would only jeopardise the cause of peace instead of serving it.

Queen Victoria to the German Emperor.

[Copy.] [Telegram.]

11th March 1900.—Most grateful to you. Am very sensible of your friendly interest in the matter referred to, and for the answer which you ordered your Foreign Office to send.

Queen Victoria to Sir Frank Lascelles.

[Cypher Telegram.]

11th March 1900.—You will have heard what has taken place. The Emperor telegraphed in the kindest way direct to me, to which I have answered but only generally, as it must go *en clair*, but please convey to

the Emperor that my whole nation is with me in a fixed determination to see this war through without intervention.

The time for, and the terms of, peace must be left to our decision, and my country, which is suffering from so heavy a sacrifice of precious lives, will resist all interference.

The Emperor has proved himself such a kind friend to England and so affectionate to me that I wish him to know the true position of things.

Sir Frank Lascelles to the German Emperor.

[Copy.]

BERLIN, 12th March 1900.

SIRE,—I have the honour to forward to your Majesty a careful paraphrase of a telegram which I received this morning from the Queen, and which I hope may be satisfactory to your Majesty, not only as a recognition by the Queen of your Majesty's kind friendship for England and affection for her, but also as a proof of the accuracy of your Majesty's foresight. I have telegraphed to the Queen that, in consequence of your Majesty's absence from Berlin, I have ventured to convey her Majesty's message by means of a letter. I have, etc., etc., etc., FRANK C. LASCELLES.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 12th March 1900.

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—Many thanks for your telegrams. I think they will answer their purpose admirably. I am very glad it fell to the Queen to do it. It would not have been *convenable* for me to use such strong language. Yours very truly, SALISBURY.

Sir Arthur Bigge to Queen Victoria.

13th March 1900.—Sir Francis Knollys writes, in returning the copies of your Majesty's telegrams to the German Emperor :

"The Prince of Wales thinks the answers are quite excellent. I venture to say that the one to Lascelles is worthy of Queen Elizabeth."

Lord Curzon to Queen Victoria.

VICEROY'S CAMP, LUMDING, ASSAM, 11th March 1900.—. . . It has been such a pleasure to read in Reuter of the great reception that has, as always, been given to your Majesty during your recent progress through the streets of London; and also to learn of your projected visit to Ireland. That your Majesty should be willing to undertake this great exertion is to set a noble example to all in high places, and will arouse to a white heat of enthusiasm the emotional nature of the Irish people.

When the war is over the nation will be all the better for the stern discipline through which it will have passed: our reverses will have shown us the many joints in our armour; while the Empire will for the first time have learned the incalculable value of its own unity. What a pride it will be to your Majesty to have lived to see such a day!

The Viceroy is in humble agreement with all that your Majesty says about the Native Princes. He would gladly see them employed in your Majesty's service, in many countries and lands; and he hopes, in the course of the ensuing summer, when he has more time, to draw up some scheme for utilising their wasted military energies and desires.

The Famine Fund is being splendidly taken up both in India and at home; and the Viceroy has just received a telegram from the Maharajah of Jaipur offering the princely sum of 15 lacs, or £100,000, as an endowment, so to speak, the annual interest of which is to be devoted to famine prevention.

There never was a time when loyalty and devotion were more widely spread among the Indian Chiefs, and, in the Viceroy's opinion, these feelings are capable of being even more warmly stimulated and confirmed in the future.

There is a suggestion which it has occurred to him to make to your Majesty, who might be willing to make some sort of personal acknowledgment of the principal

offers of loyal assistance that have been received in connection with the war from the Indian Princes. Many of these have no suitable picture or likeness of your Majesty to hang in their Palaces. Would it be a possible thing for your Majesty to have prepared and framed a number of highly enlarged photographic likenesses of yourself, and possibly even to sign them with your own hand as a gift to the Princes concerned? The idea has occurred to the Viceroy, from having heard recently from a visitor to the Maharajah of Kashmir's Court at Jammu, that there was only in the Palace a bad chromo-lithographic likeness of your Majesty, while there was a fine autograph photograph of the German Emperor. Should your Majesty be favourably disposed towards the idea, the Viceroy would gladly draw up a list of the Chiefs to whom such a distinction might properly be paid.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

10 DOWNING STREET, 13th March 1900.—. . .

Perhaps the most interesting episode of the sitting was the reception of the correspondence between the President of the Orange and Transvaal States on the one side and the Prime Minister on the other, respecting the terms of peace. As your Majesty is aware, the Prime Minister's letter announces that we cannot consent to leave the Republics their independence. This announcement was received with loud applause by the Unionist Party and in absolute silence by the Opposition.

[Telegram.] *Lord Roberts to Queen Victoria.*

BLOEMFONTEIN, 13th March (1900).—By the help of God and by the bravery of her Majesty's soldiers the troops under my command have taken possession of Bloemfontein. The British flag now flies over the Presidency vacated last evening by Mr. Steyn, late President of the Orange Free State. Mr. Fraser, Member of the late Executive Government, the Mayor, the Secretary to the late Government, the Landrost,

and other officials met me two miles from the town, and presented me with the keys of the Public Offices. The enemy have withdrawn from the neighbourhood, and all seems quiet. The inhabitants of Bloemfontein gave the troops a cordial welcome.

[Telegram.] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

KIEL, 14th March 1900.—Many thanks for your kind message to me through Sir Frank. It is exactly what I answered to Count MouraviEFF, and in perfect harmony with the views I take of the actual situation, and which I have always advocated.

After nearly 14,000 officers and men have shed their blood for Queen and country, there can be only this issue.

I inspected Harry's old flagship *Deutschland* to-day, and was glad to find her in excellent order and manned by a crew proof of first-rate marksmanship at target practice. WILLIAM I. R.

Sir Frank Lascelles to Queen Victoria.

[Cypher Telegram.]

15th March 1900.—Humble duty. Following is the substance of a telegram received last night from the Emperor:

"Best thanks. Hardly had (?) [expected] her Majesty's message. It is so kind of her to have found time to think of me. It is a corroboration of my views, and proves that I understood rightly the drift of feelings entertained by your countrymen. The blood of 14,000 officers and men has cemented that land to yours once and for ever."

The Earl of Rosebery to Queen Victoria.

15th March 1900.

MADAM,—I have hesitated whether to write to your Majesty, but at last cannot refrain from acting on the permission given me on my resignation to communicate from time to time to your Majesty. For last week seems to me a matchless epoch, even in

your Majesty's glorious reign. The renunciation of the tour abroad, the announcement of the visit to Ireland, the extraordinarily dexterous and sympathetic order about the shamrock, and the visit to London make up a period which it was a privilege to live through. How can we all thank or repay your Majesty!

There is only one of these events which can cause even a shadow of regret. The tour abroad has been so beneficial to your Majesty's health that all Britain would grieve if the loss of it were felt by your Majesty. Otherwise we can only glory in it all. I think the visit to London far more interesting and touching than even the Jubilees: it was more simple and spontaneous. It was as if a great wave of sympathy and devotion had passed over the capital. Your Majesty intimated, as it were, to London: "I will come among you, and rejoice with you; as we have shared our anxieties and sorrows, we will share the common joys."

Your Majesty does not much admire Queen Elizabeth, but the visit to London was in the Elizabethan spirit. There was, however, this difference, that with the pride that England felt in Elizabeth there was but little love. Now the nation glows with both.

I saw your Majesty three times in the streets and in the Park; and my overpowering feeling was, "What a glorious privilege to be able to make millions so happy!" And I came to the conclusion that that time, from Thursday to Saturday, was the most remarkable that I had ever passed in London. No one who saw London then will ever forget it, or will cease to pray for the prolongation of your Majesty's life, and of your Majesty's priceless and unceasing exertions for your Empire. I am always, your Majesty's humble, devoted servant and subject, ROSEBERY.

[Telegram.] *Sir Alfred Milner to Mr. Chamberlain.*

16th March 1900.—Matter most urgent.

Following Resolutions passed unanimously at

public meeting of Irishmen in Cape Town handed to me for transmission to her Majesty the Queen :

(1) That we Irishmen in public meeting assembled proudly recognise that our countrymen in her Majesty's service have added fresh laurels to the national honour, and hereby humbly thank her Majesty for so graciously acknowledging their merit by her order to wear the shamrock on Saint Patrick's Day : her intention for forming an Irish regiment of Guards, and of paying a visit to our country where loyal and enthusiastic welcome awaits her.

(2) That this meeting of Irish Colonists records its profound conviction that in the present war the Empire is fighting for justice and peace, and tenders to the High Commissioner its absolute confidence and respectful sympathy in his grave anxieties.

Promoters are very anxious that the Resolutions should reach her Majesty on Saint Patrick's Day. A prompt and appreciative reply would have very good effect.

Sir Arthur Bigge to Queen Victoria.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 16th March 1900.—Humbly submitted. The enclosed telegram came late this evening, and Mr. Chamberlain asks if your Majesty will graciously reply to it early to-morrow. Sir A. Bigge therefore humbly suggests the following :

The Queen sincerely thanks the Irishmen in Cape Town for their loyal message unanimously agreed upon at a public meeting and transmitted through the High Commissioner. The sentiments which it expressed have greatly touched her Majesty. The Queen has always felt confident that the same spirit of courage and allegiance which has distinguished her Irish soldiers in face of the enemy would be shared by their brethren in the Colony in support of the authority of her Government.

Lord Ampthill¹ to Sir Arthur Bigge.

COLONIAL OFFICE, 17th March 1900.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—Many thanks for sending the Queen's reply to the Cape Irishmen so early. It is now on its way. Mr. Chamberlain did not wish to

¹ Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Colonial Office.

alter a word of it. He said, "It was admirable, as usual." Yours sincerely, AMPTHILL.

Lord Curzon to Queen Victoria.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, CALCUTTA, 22nd March 1900.—. . . It is now above all things essential that a strong man in the prime of his life should be appointed to succeed,¹ since the Viceroy would not be doing his duty did he not confess to your Majesty that there is grave need for reform in many branches of the military service in India. The machine has become clogged with tradition and routine, and calls for urgent overhauling if we are ever to defend the Indian frontiers with assured success. . . .

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 22nd March 1900.—Lunched early, and left at two with Lenchen and Thora for Woolwich, going by train via Waterloo. The whole line from Windsor was crowded with workmen and people, all cheering. At Waterloo Station there was an immense crowd, which was very enthusiastic. We three drove straight through the [Woolwich] Arsenal, where 20,000 workmen were assembled, who are working day and night on munitions, and had been given a half-holiday in honour of my visit. They cheered so tremendously that it quite drowned the band playing *God Save the Queen*. It was a drive of two and a half miles to the Herbert Hospital, and a most wonderful sight, the whole distance being crowded with a dense mass of cheering and shouting people. Numbers of schoolchildren, waving flags, were assembled at different parts of the route. The chief objects of interest we passed on the way were the flag flying from the Artillery Barracks made by the ladies of Pretoria at the time of the annexation, the little house in which General Gordon was born, and the statue of the Prince Imperial, just outside the Military Academy. The cadets were all drawn up at the hospital.

¹ To the Command-in-Chief in India.

On arrival there I was wheeled at once into the wards, first passing through the corridors, lined with convalescent wounded, but it was so dark I could not see them very well. I was wheeled up to the bed of each man, speaking to them, and giving them flowers. They seemed so touched, and many had tears in their eyes. There were a great number of Irish soldiers, chiefly from the Dublin Fusiliers, Inniskillens, and Connaught Rangers; also several artillerymen who had been in that dreadful affair at Colenso, when they lost so heavily. Some were very badly wounded, but all seemed to be doing well. I then went up into the medical ward and again presented flowers. The cases were mostly enteric, dysentery, and rheumatism. Some of the men had only arrived a few days before.

My visit lasted an hour and a half. Drove back over Blackheath past the Fever Hospital, where all the nurses were drawn up, and it was four miles to the station, passing again through thousands of people, cheering ceaselessly and deafeningly. One could neither hear nor speak for the noise, and it was very tiring, though very moving and gratifying. At one place the boys of the naval school, and at another the children of the Cripples' Home, founded by General Gardiner, were drawn up. The decorations everywhere were quite beautiful. Got back at seven, somewhat fatigued. Only the ladies to dinner.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 22nd March 1900.—Mr. Balfour with his humble duty to your Majesty begs humbly to thank your Majesty for her gracious letter to Mr. Balfour. In reference to your Majesty's observation on the recent outburst of enthusiasm which greeted your Majesty's visit to London, he cannot forbear respectfully expressing his conviction that your Majesty occupies a position in the hearts and inmost affections of your people which has been given to none of your Majesty's predecessors. Recent events have done no more than provide an occasion on which these

deep-seated feelings may find something like adequate opportunity for expressing themselves. . . .

Sir Arthur Bigge to Queen Victoria.

24th March 1900.—Humbly submitted. The Lord-Lieutenant asked Sir Arthur Bigge to submit for your Majesty's approval that, following the precedents of your Majesty's previous visits to Ireland, the position of the Lord-Lieutenant shall remain unaffected, and that he will continue to discharge the same powers and duties as usual. . . .¹

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

20 ARLINGTON STREET, S.W., 25th March 1900.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully submits to your Majesty that the Duke of Norfolk has resigned the office of Postmaster-General, as he starts this week for South Africa with the Sussex Volunteers.

Sir Arthur Bigge to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[Copy.]

WINDSOR CASTLE, 25th March 1900.

DEAR LORD SALISBURY,—The Queen wishes me to let you know the result of my interview with the Prince of Wales this afternoon.

H.R.H. declared that it was utterly impossible for him to attend the opening of the French Exhibition ; that he would have to go to Paris some time during the Exhibition, but even this he did not wish to make public, as it might after all become impossible for him to visit France.

As to precedents: in 1867, although a Commissioner, he did *not* attend the opening ; in 1878 he *was* present at the opening ceremony. In 1889 he was not a Commissioner, and did not go to the opening. H.R.H. does not admit that the campaign of personal insults to the Queen is over ; meanwhile, it is now directed against himself, and H.R.H. desires me to send you the enclosed cutting, a translation from *La Patrie* ;

¹ This submission is endorsed, " Approved. V. R. I."

such scurrilous abuse is no doubt read and believed in by the lowest and ignorant classes, and is quite sufficient to arouse indignation against the Prince personally.

At the opening ceremony he would appear in the British uniform, and it is not improbable that he might be insulted by the Paris mob; and, as H.R.H. says, an insult to our uniform might lead to war. He argues further that to go to Paris just now—the opening of the Exhibition is on 15th April—would, in his opinion, be a positive slight to the Queen, and would be regarded by Frenchmen as a proof that he was indifferent to the vile caricatures and lampooning of his own mother by their Press. It would be most unpopular in this country, where many important exhibitors have withdrawn in disgust at the treatment which the French have allowed the Queen to suffer at the hands of their newspapers.

The Queen says that the Prince of Wales, she feels, is quite right in these views, and that it would not under the circumstances be possible for him to attend the public ceremony on 15th April, and, moreover, there would be something anomalous in H.R.H. going to Paris just now when H.M. would not even go into France *en route* to Italy.

The Prince of Wales has been begged by friends, acquaintances, and warned by anonymous letters not to go to France, at all events for the present. Yours very truly, A. BIGGE.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

[Copy.]

FOREIGN OFFICE, 27th March 1900.

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—Many thanks for your letter. Of course there is no more to be said. Ever yours truly, SALISBURY.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 27th March 1900.—After luncheon I received delegates from Australia, who had come over about the Federation, about which there

has been some arrangement come to. There were six gentlemen, four of whom brought their wives, and one a daughter. I received them in the Green Drawing-room with Beatrice, Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain presenting them.

[Copy.] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

BERLIN, 31st March 1900.

MOST BELOVED GRANDMAMA,—How glad am I that I may join to the thanks for your last kind letter the warmest congratulations for the birth of another great-grandson! ¹ The Lord's blessing is upon your house, and may it for ever continue to be so! I hope that May and her boy will prosper, and that he may add a new ray of sunshine in the pretty lodge to the sunny little circle in a happy home. Since I last wrote the operations of General Roberts have promptly led to the result I predicted; and the efforts of his gallant men brought about Paardeberg, Bloemfontein, and the relief of Ladysmith, names for ever memorable in the history of the British arms. Lord Roberts has shown himself worthy of the confidence of his Queen who chose him, and of his troops who followed him to victory. The fact will do much to ensure the end of the campaign, as the mutual reliance of the general and his soldiers is based upon convictions proved by such brilliant facts. . . .

By my telegram you are informed of the sudden surprises in the political phases of the war, and I am most thankful to Providence that I was granted such an opportunity of saving your country from a most dangerous situation in warding off a combination aiming a blow at England in a moment which was vital to her. May your Government see in my action a renewed proof of my firm friendship, and a sign of my determination to see that you shall have fair play! For I am sure that, South Africa once under the British flag, thrift, order, life, commerce, and peace with "Goodwill towards all men" will be assured.

¹ Prince Henry, now Duke of Gloucester, born 31st March 1900.

Mama wrote to me that she suffered less and was enjoying the sun and flowers; as the weather here is beyond all description, nasty and horrible, I begged her to be most careful in choosing her time for returning.

Let me, before I end, compliment you on the gracious order you gave for the "wearing o' the green" by the brave Irish troops, and the resolve to pay Ireland a visit. When talking with Sir Frank about this great news, I ventured to say that "her Most Gracious Majesty had the wonderful gift of always doing the right thing at the right moment." May the visit prove a thorough success! With best love I kiss your hands, and remain, ever your most devoted Grandson, WILLIAM.

[Telegram.] *Queen Victoria to Colonel Baden-Powell.*

WINDSOR CASTLE, 1st April 1900.—I continue watching with confidence and admiration the patient and resolute defence¹ which is so gallantly maintained under your ever resourceful command.

Mr. Chamberlain to Sir Alfred Milner.

[Cypher Telegram.]

COLONIAL OFFICE, 3rd April 1900.—The Queen regrets to observe the large number of ladies now visiting and remaining in South Africa, often without imperative reasons, and strongly disapproves of the hysterical spirit which seems to have influenced some of them to go to where they are not wanted. I conclude their presence interferes with work of civil and military officers, and they must largely occupy best hotel accommodation required for wounded and invalid officers.

Can you send telegram,² with or without concurrence of Roberts and General Commanding Cape Town, representing that number of lady visitors is now so considerable as to encroach materially on hotel and

¹ Of Mafeking. Col. Baden-Powell is now Lord Baden-Powell.

² On the 10th Sir Alfred Milner sent a telegram to the effect desired by Mr. Chamberlain.

railway accommodation, etc., and otherwise impede business, and suggesting that some notice might be issued here calling attention to inconvenience of this unusual number of ladies visiting seat of war.

This I would submit to the Queen, and her Majesty would instruct me to publish. CHAMBERLAIN.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

VICEREGAL LODGE, DUBLIN, 4th April 1900.—We landed at the Victoria Wharf at half-past eleven, being received by Lord and Lady Cadogan, Arthur, Louischen and their children, also by Lord Dufferin, and Lord Meath. We three wore bunches of real shamrocks, and my bonnet and parasol were embroidered with silver shamrocks. On entering my carriage, in which I sat alone, Lenchen and Beatrice opposite me, an Address was presented from the Chairman and Councillors of Kingstown, and I said a few words in handing my reply. The procession, consisting of four carriages, then started, mine coming last. Arthur rode near my carriage all the way, and I had a travelling escort of the King's Dragoon Guards. The whole route from Kingstown to Dublin was much crowded, all the people cheering loudly, and the decorations were beautiful. For some distance the road was kept by bluejackets, but in many parts of the more country roads there was scarcely a policeman or soldier. There were many loyal inscriptions put up, suspended across the road, the following being two of them :

"Blest for ever is she who relied
On Erin's honour and Erin's pride,"

and

"In her a thousand virtues closed,
As Mother, Wife and Queen."

At Ballsbridge the travelling escort was replaced by a Sovereign's escort of Life Guards, and a large number of military and other mounted officials joined the procession.

At Leeson Bridge an archway was erected, a

facsimile of the entrance to Biggotrath Castle, and according to the ancient custom the gates were closed till the procession approached, when Athlone Pursuivant-at-Arms advanced saying, "I demand to be admitted to the presence of the Lord Mayor." At the same moment the bugler on the top of the arch blew a blast. Athlone passed in, and the gates were reclosed. Bowing to the Lord Mayor he said: "My Lord Mayor of Dublin, I seek admission to the City of Dublin for her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen"; the Lord Mayor replying, "On behalf of the city, I tender to her Majesty the most hearty welcome to this ancient city, and on her arrival the gate shall be thrown open on the instant." This was done, and I passed in, my carriage stopping opposite the Lord Mayor, who with the aldermen, councillors, and officials received me and presented the old city keys, twelve in number, and 600 years old; the city sword was offered by the Lord Mayor (Mr. Devereux Pile). A loyal address was then read and presented to me in a beautiful gold casket. I answered, "I thank you for your loyal address and this hearty reception. I am very glad to find myself again in Ireland." I handed him the written answer.

The drive lasted two hours and a half. We went all along the quays in the poorer parts of the town, where thousands had gathered together and gave me a wildly enthusiastic greeting. At Trinity College the students sang *God Save the Queen*, and shouted themselves hoarse. The cheers and often almost screams were quite deafening. Even the Nationalists in front of the City Hall seemed to forget their politics and cheered and waved their hats. It was really a wonderful reception I got and most gratifying.

Lord and Lady Cadogan received and welcomed me at the door of the Viceregal Lodge. I recognised the outside of the building, but not the inside. I was rolled a good way to the staircase, up which I was carried, as there was no lift. I have very comfortable rooms.

Lenchen came in with some startling news from Bertie, who had been shot at as their train was leaving Brussels. A man¹ jumped on to the step of the railway carriage in which he and Alix were sitting, and fired straight at them. Was greatly shocked and upset. Telegraphed at once to dear Bertie and Alix. Arthur, Louischen, and Daisy dined with us upstairs in the small dining-room. Felt very tired.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Queen Victoria.

THE CASTLE, DUBLIN, 5th April 1900.—. . . Lord Lansdowne begs leave to offer your Majesty, as one who is closely connected with this country, his congratulations on your reception yesterday. He is proud to have witnessed it, and confident of the excellent results which your Majesty's visit will produce.

He also desires to express his concern at the attack of which his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has been the subject, and which has, he rejoices to think, had no bad consequences. He greatly regrets that this incident should have caused your Majesty anxiety at the present time.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 6th April 1900.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully submits that a Cabinet Council was held to-day.

The greater part of the sitting was occupied with discussing the two fresh disasters, that under Colonel Broadwood and that under General Gatacre. They were deeply impressed with these; especially with the last, in view of the serious reverse which General Gatacre had experienced during the winter. They resolved to telegraph their sense of the deep evil, in various ways, which these successive displays of carelessness would produce; and to urge on Lord Roberts, without mentioning any names, that the officers who were responsible for these mishaps ought to be superseded. . . .

¹ Sipido, an Italian.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

VICEREGAL LODGE, DUBLIN, 7th April 1900.—I cannot refrain from expressing my regret that the Cabinet should have decided to urge upon Lord Roberts the supersession of General Gatacre and Colonel Broadwood.

The Government selected Lord Roberts as Commander-in-Chief. Having thus proved their complete confidence in him, they surely cannot now so far interfere as to advise him to supersede Colonel Broadwood, when he has placed on record that, even after that officer's misfortune, his opinion of him was greater than before. As to General Gatacre, it does not appear that he was responsible for the loss of the detachment, but if Lord Roberts considers him to blame, no doubt he will take what steps he feels are necessary.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

VICEREGAL LODGE, 7th April 1900.—Drove with Lenchen and Beatrice, the ladies in a second carriage, to the public part of the Phoenix Park, where 52,000 school-children from all parts of Ireland were assembled with their masters and mistresses. It was a wonderful sight, and the noise of the children cheering was quite overpowering. I drove down the line so that they could all see me, and stopped for a moment to receive a nosegay, presented by the twin daughters of Lady Arnott, who, with the Lady Mayoress, was presented by Lady Denbigh.

9th April.—In the afternoon started at four in the landau with four horses and postilions, and a travelling escort of the 2nd Life Guards, commanded by Lord Headfort. Lenchen and Beatrice were with me, and sat opposite to me. I drove through all the principal streets of Dublin, where all the decorations were still up. The crowds were just as large as on Wednesday, and the enthusiasm immense.

[Telegram.] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

BERLIN SCHLOSS, 9th April 1900.—Sincerest thanks for your kind message, approving of the arrangement I suggested to Helen for her boy, modelled on the education of our eldest boy; as the scheme has so well answered with him, it will be doubtless the same with little Albany. He passed a good examination, and my General *à la suite*, von Seckendorff, has chosen eight well-behaved boys to form a class for him. He is a pretty and very sweet boy, and reminded me much of his dear father, with whose memory so many sunny hours of my boyhood in Windsor and Osborne are linked.

May I venture to express my hearty congratulations at the success of the visit to Ireland, and of the gracious order adding a regiment of "Irish Guards" to the Guards Brigade? This is a distinction which the brave Irish have well merited by their dauntless courage shown in so trying moments. WILLIAM I. R.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

9th April 1900.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty to your Majesty respectfully acknowledges your Majesty's telegram of Saturday. He has also seen your Majesty's telegram to Lord Lansdowne of the same date.

The telegram to Lord Roberts on which your Majesty comments was sent by Lord Lansdowne under the instructions of the Cabinet; and was not even proposed by him. He has therefore no more responsibility in respect to it than was shared by all the Ministers who were present.

In your Majesty's telegram to Lord Lansdowne you say, "Lord Roberts is the only judge of what is necessary, and must really not be interfered with by civilians at a distance who cannot judge the exact state of the case."

With the deepest respect Lord Salisbury would submit to your Majesty that, under our present

constitution, the doctrine that the Cabinet have *no* control over a General in the field is not practicable. If they have no control, of course they have no responsibility. In the case, which is, of course, possible, that some grave evil were to result from the policy of the General, the Cabinet could not accept the responsibility of what had been done, or be under any obligation to defend him in Parliament; and in case Parliament took an adverse view, a condition of great embarrassment would result.

Of course, the Cabinet should not interpose without serious cause. In the present instance they think there *is* serious cause. The successive loss of so many bodies of men in consequence of the officers taking no precautions against ambush amounts to a scandal. These repeated exhibitions of negligence are most injurious to the service, and require severer notice than they have received. But if Lord Roberts does not agree with the Cabinet,¹ he will no doubt reply; and his reply will be very carefully considered before the Cabinet submits any further step for the consideration of your Majesty.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.
[Cypher Telegram.]

VICEREGAL LODGE, DUBLIN, 10th April 1900.—I have received your letter, and also one from Lord Lansdowne. Of course I fully recognise the Cabinet's responsibility in this instance. But what I regret is that they did not wait until Lord Roberts imputed blame to his subordinates. Instead of that they suggested that such was the case, and even mentioned his *superseding* the offenders. It would be wiser in future not to be in such a hurry, but wait for full particulars.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 10th April 1900.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty to your Majesty respectfully

¹ Lord Roberts relieved General Gatacre of his command

thanks your Majesty for your gracious letter ; and for the most affectionate and satisfactory letter from the German Emperor. There lingers in Lord Salisbury's mind a doubt, whether a proposal for a combination against England was ever really made by France and Russia to Germany¹ ; but still, it is very satisfactory to receive from the German Emperor such earnest expressions of his goodwill.

Lord Salisbury did not receive your Majesty's letter till some hours after he had sent an answer to your telegrams in regard to the relations of the Cabinet to the Generals on active service, a subject of extreme difficulty. He will not weary your Majesty by repeating the considerations he then laid before you upon that subject.

Queen Victoria to Captain Hedworth Lambton, R.N.
[Draft.] [Telegram.]

VICEREGAL LODGE, DUBLIN, 11th April 1900.—I sincerely welcome you all on your return home, and heartily congratulate you on the gallant and valued services which you have rendered in South Africa.² I hope to see you all shortly after my return to England.

[Telegram.] *Captain Lambton, R.N., to Queen Victoria.*

PORTSEA, 11th April 1900.—Humble duty. Your Majesty's most gracious telegram received by officers and men H.M.S. *Powerful* with greatest enthusiasm and gratitude. HEDWORTH LAMBTON.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

VICEREGAL LODGE, DUBLIN, 14th April 1900.—After luncheon drove with [Beatrice] and Lenchen in the large landau and four horses, with a travelling escort, the ladies following, to Kilmainham Hospital, where Arthur received me, and all the old pensioners

¹ For a full discussion of what passed between Germany, France, and Russia in the winter of 1899–1900 with reference to intervention in the Boer War, see Lee's *King Edward VII*, vol. i, ch. 89.

² Their heavy naval guns materially assisted in the defence of Ladysmith.

were drawn up, and the oldest amongst them, aged eighty-one, who had fought in the first Afghan war in 1839, gave me a nosegay. All the old men cheered. We drove round the hospital and out at another gate, going on to the Castle. There were again great crowds as we passed through the town. Lord and Lady Cadogan were at the door, and I was carried upstairs, and went through all the really very fine reception rooms, and St. Patrick's Hall, which was lit up, also the Throne room, in which I had held my Drawing-room in 1849. We had tea in the drawing-room where they generally sit. Gottlieb's band played two pieces, and then Lady Limerick played beautifully on the piano. Lord Cadogan's grandchildren came in at the end of tea, and afterwards the ladies and gentlemen staying at the Castle came by, including the Archbishop. We drove back the same way, and the people were very enthusiastic, as they always are here.

Lord Roberts to Queen Victoria.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS, BLOEMFONTEIN, 15th April 1900.

MADAM,—. . . I did not think when I wrote to your Majesty on the 15th March that my next letter would also be dated from Bloemfontein, but the delay here has been unavoidable. We are dependent upon a base 750 miles away for the main portion of our supplies, and, as the railway is only a single line, the transport of goods is necessarily slow, a great trial to one's patience, when everyone wants everything at the same time. The Cavalry and Horse Artillery have had to be almost remounted, their horses were so done up by hard work and getting very little food. The transport animals were in much the same plight. Then the soldiers required a fresh kit, for many of them were in rags. Ammunition and stores of all kinds had to be replaced, and large supplies of food had to be collected. A great deal has been done during the past month, and in another ten days the army will, I trust, be ready to take the field again.

Meanwhile, the enemy have not failed to take

advantage of our enforced idleness. They have spread over the country in small parties, threatening our long line of communication, frightening, in some instances indeed ill-treating, the burghers who had laid down their arms and returned to their farms, under the condition of my Proclamation. Not being able to give these people proper protection has caused me considerable concern, and I am glad to think that this state of affairs will not last much longer.

In Bloemfontein itself there has been no trouble. . . . Soldiers walk about in the most orderly manner, and not a single instance of their being rude or rough has been brought to my notice. . . .

The climate now is quite perfect, and I hope that Lady Roberts and my daughter will be able to come here ere long. They will find it an agreeable change after Cape Town. I understand that your Majesty does not approve of ladies coming out to South Africa from mere curiosity. I am forbidding any to enter the Orange Free State, except those who may have a son or husband in hospital, or whose husband is likely to be quartered in Bloemfontein for some time.

We were all delighted to hear of the splendid reception your Majesty met with in Dublin. I know how very pleased the Irish people are at your Majesty honouring their country with a visit. Their hearts were won by Irish soldiers being permitted to wear shamrock on St. Patrick's Day, and I am sure that the formation of an Irish regiment of the Guards will be thoroughly appreciated. . . .

With my most respectful duty, I am, Madam, your Majesty's most obedient humble servant, ROBERTS.

Major F. A. B. Daly to the Principal Medical Officer.¹
[Copy.]

FRERE, 28th February 1900.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith one tin of the chocolate presented by her Most Gracious

¹ In submitting this letter to the Queen on 15th April, Sir Arthur Bigge wrote: "Your Majesty would doubtless wish another box to be sent to Private Humphrey."

Majesty the Queen to the troops serving in South Africa.

The tin of chocolate in question was carried by No. 4497 Private James Humphrey, 2nd Battalion Royal Lancaster Regiment, in his haversack, at the frontal attack on Groblers Kloof on the 22nd instant, and was struck by a Boer bullet; the man was lying down at the time firing, and the tin was situated over the region of the spleen; had the bullet not been stopped by the chocolate, it would undoubtedly have passed through this structure into the abdomen, and have caused a fatal wound—thus saving the man's life at the time; the man was afterwards wounded in the foot, and is at present under treatment in No. 1 Stationary Hospital, Frere.

Private Humphrey has desired me to forward the tin, together with the bullet by which it was struck, for presentation to her Majesty, and I shall be glad if you will kindly see your way to have the man's request granted through the proper channel.

I may add that the Sergeant of Private Humphrey's section (Sergeant Cheetham) is also in this hospital, and verifies the man's statement, as he was quite close to him when he was struck. I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant, F. A. B. DALY, Major R.A.M. Corps.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

VICEREGAL LODGE, 16th April 1900.—In the afternoon drove with Lenchen and Beatrice to Clondalkin to see one of the curious old Irish towers. The little town had been so prettily decorated. Wherever I go the people come out and cheer, and call out, "God bless you."

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 16th April 1900.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully submits to your Majesty a note he has just received from Sir Frank Lascelles. He ventures with all respect

to commend it to your Majesty's gracious consideration. In his judgment it would be of considerable public importance if your Majesty would permit the Duke of York to go on the 6th of May. As the Emperor is about to be godfather to his child, it will be more marked if no member of the Royal Family of England is present. Their absence will wound the German Emperor, and will be a disappointment to the Austrian Emperor. But it will be no punishment whatever to the gutter journalists who have behaved so atrociously, and against whom your Majesty is justly incensed. *They* will only be glad of an incident which may tend to widen the gap between the public feeling in the two countries.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

VICEREGAL LODGE, 17th April 1900.—After breakfast saw a quantity of lace and embroideries done by the very poorest people and quite beautiful. Have altogether made many purchases from the various local industries. After luncheon drove with Lenchen and Ismay S. in a landau with postilions and a travelling escort of the 2nd Life Guards, the equerries riding. We drove into Dublin to the Adelaide Hospital, situated in the very poorest part of the town. The street in which it stands is a very narrow one, and the people literally thronged round the carriage, giving me the most enthusiastic welcome, as indeed I receive everywhere. Lord Denbigh¹ awaited me at the hospital, and presented the Committee of Management, as well as all the doctors and the Lady Superintendent, Miss Fitzpatrick, who gave me a bouquet.

On leaving the hospital we drove by White Friars Place, Stephen's Green, and Leeson Bridge.

¹ Lord-in-waiting, 1897-1901. It was not his turn for duty, but, as he states in an interesting article about the Irish visit in the *Universe* of 4th December 1931: "I received her Majesty's command, that, being a Catholic, she wished me to go to Ireland in attendance." He adds that the Queen was most anxious to do all she could to draw classes in Ireland together, and soften the religious bitterness between Catholics and Protestants.

We passed through the picturesque village of Donnybrook to Sandford Road, where the escort left us, and the Mounted Constabulary replaced them. The road was very pretty, through lanes, everywhere crowds of people, cheering wildly and waving flags. On our arrival at Mount Anville, the Convent of the Sacred Heart, we passed up an avenue decorated with Venetian masts and garlands. Were received by the Rev. Mother Stuart, Superior Vicar of the Houses, the Rev. Mother Roche, local Superior, the Bishop of Canea (Dr. Donnolly), and Canon Matthews, all of whom were presented by Lord Denbigh. The pupils of the Convent and some from the other sister houses, numbering between four or five hundred, were drawn up, as well as about fifty of the nuns. The children were all dressed in white, the boarders carrying arum lilies in their hands, whilst the others carried daffodils, and they all sang the National Anthem. Two of the girls gave me a beautiful nosegay, and the Mother Superior kissed my hand. There were great outbursts of cheering as I drove away.

19th April.—Went out with Lenchen and Ismay S[outhampton], and saw all my Jubilee Nurses, who had come from different parts of Ireland on the terrace in front of the house. I had previously given to Lady Cadogan, who had presented the nurses to me, the 3rd class of the Victoria and Albert order. In the afternoon drove with Beatrice and Ismay S. to Clontarf, along by the seashore. A great many people along the road cheering and waving flags. We then drove through St. Anne's, Lord Ardilaun's place, which is beautiful, and has a very pretty approach to it. Stopped a moment at the house, where were Lord and Lady Ardilaun. The latter gave me a large nosegay of primroses, to-day being "Primrose Day." Returned by the Glasnevin Road. It was a very pleasant interesting drive. Arthur, Louischen, Cardinal Logue, Lord and Lady Lucan, Sir Gerald and Lady Dease, Ismay S., Lord Denbigh, and Sir A. Bigge dined. The Cardinal, who is very un-

assuming and pleasing in manner, though hardly in looks, is also Archbishop. He was dressed in his robes. He seemed to be on very good terms with our Archbishop of Armagh, and spoke most kindly of him and Miss Alexander. Gottlieb's band played after dinner, and the Life Guards band during dinner.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

VICEREGAL LODGE, 18th April 1900.—I am much surprised at the Spion Kop despatches¹ being published, especially as I understood from the Commander-in-Chief that this would not be done, and Lord Salisbury did not wish it. What caused this change? The publication will only do harm, and lower the officers named in the estimation of their commands.²

[*Copy.*] *Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.*

VICEREGAL LODGE, 19th April 1900. *Primrose Day.*—The Queen writes to Lord Salisbury, first of

¹ Lord Roberts's confidential despatch to Lord Lansdowne, forwarding Sir Redvers Buller's despatch on the Spion Kop affair, contained serious reflections on the conduct of Sir Redvers himself, Sir Charles Warren, and Lieut.-Colonel Thorneycroft. The summing up at the close ran as follows: "The attempt to relieve Ladysmith, described in these despatches, was well devised, and I agree with Sir Redvers Buller in thinking that it ought to have succeeded. That it failed may, in some measure, be due to the difficulties of the ground and the commanding positions held by the enemy, probably also to errors of judgment and want of administrative capacity on the part of Sir Charles Warren. But whatever faults Sir Charles Warren may have committed, the failure must also be ascribed to the disinclination of the officer in supreme command to assert his authority, and see that what he thought best was done, and also to the unwarrantable and needless assumption of responsibility by a subordinate officer."

² Lord Lansdowne's reply, dated 19th April, has been printed in Lord Newton's *Lord Lansdowne*, p. 188; and is also covered by his memorandum of 24th April, printed in full below, pp. 541-3. We therefore do not reproduce it here, except the last two sentences, which are not quoted by Lord Newton: "Since the above lines were written, Lord Roberts has reported that Sir Charles Warren has, at Sir Redvers Buller's request, been deprived of his command of a division in Natal, and transferred to other employment in Cape Colony. Lord Roberts's censure of Sir Redvers Buller is so temperate and judicial that it should not in Lord Lansdowne's opinion have the effect of lowering Sir Redvers in the estimation of his command."

all to say how wonderfully kind, loyal, and enthusiastic the Irish people show themselves wherever she goes, and such real affection that it amply repays me for the considerable but unavoidable fatigue I have to go through. They are most kind and loyal to the Princesses and to the Duke and Duchess of Connaught.

The Queen must now express her utter astonishment and, she must say, great concern at the publication *now* of the very secret and confidential despatch from Lord Roberts which Lord Salisbury said and promised should not be published, and Lord Wolseley promised should not on any account be made public. What has caused this lamentable want of direction and judgment? It is most unpleasant and painful for Lord Roberts, who will be placed in a most unpleasant position, and cruel and ungenerous towards Sir R. Buller, who did relieve Ladysmith. This publication will cause far more heart-burnings and tend to lower the Generals in the eyes of the men under them. The Queen's feelings are shared by everyone, including Cabinet Ministers here. Could Lord Lansdowne have been guilty of such an extraordinary proceeding? It has almost made the Queen think they were stolen.¹

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

VICEREGAL LODGE, 20th April 1900.—Very warm. Went with Beatrice and Ismay S., Lord Denbigh, and Sir A. Bigge to the Zoological Gardens, going in by pony chair. It is close by, just across the road, beautifully managed and most interesting. The lions are the great feature, and they have some splendid specimens. In the afternoon drove with Lenchen and Beatrice in a landau and four, but without an escort, to the Meath Hospital, where Lord Denbigh met us and presented the authorities, doctors, and matron, the latter giving me a lovely nosegay. There were

¹ Lord Salisbury telegraphed: "I am more puzzled than I can say. I quite agree in deprecating what has been done. I have written to ask for explanations."

great crowds and much enthusiasm. We then drove over Portobello Bridge through the village of Rathmines, which was gaily decorated, to Rathfarnham, where we drove through the grounds to the Convent of Loretto. Here we were greeted with much cheering by a vast crowd. In front of the Convent were grouped 200 nuns and 600 pupils, these latter all dressed in white, which made a charming contrast to the nuns in their dark garb. The National Anthem was played by the orchestra of the Convent. There were six harps, one being played by a nun. I received a beautiful bouquet from one of the pupils, also an embroidered harp, and an illuminated card. Lord Denbigh presented the Mother Superior, Father Kennedy, Monsignor Fitzpatrick, Monsignor Plunkett, and Canon Fricker of Rathmines. All seemed much pleased, and it was an extremely pretty sight. We left amidst much cheering, and returned the same way. Lord and Lady Cadogan, the Archbishop of Dublin and Mrs. Peacock, Lord and Lady Rosse, Lord and Lady Lurgan, the Duke of Montrose, Ismay S., Lord Denbigh, and Colonel Carrington dined. After dinner Arthur and Louischen came, and I had an evening party. Gottlieb's band played.

The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.

[*Telegram.*]

BERLIN, 20th April 1900.—I am much touched by your kind telegram, was so anxious to express what we all felt to Uncle,¹ and am very proud that we were the first country that could honour him and congratulate him. Mama safely arrived at home. Most grateful for sending Georgy here for the 6th of May. WILLIAM I. R.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

20th April 1900.—Thanks for your telegram. I have heard from Lord Lansdowne, and suppose his

¹ The Prince of Wales, who had just escaped assassination at Brussels by an anarchist.

explanation must be accepted. I none the less deplore the publication of the despatches, and this feeling is evidently shared by general public opinion. I must protest most strongly against any such important steps having been taken without my knowledge and approval, and as I understand without the consent of the Cabinet; and I beg you will say so. V. R. I.¹

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

21st April 1900.—Humble duty. I have received from Lord Lansdowne a letter containing his explanation of the unfortunate publication of Lord Roberts's despatch: it is not at all satisfactory. The only thing to be said is that he must have entirely misunderstood the decision of the Cabinet.

I have communicated to him the instructions contained in your Majesty's telegram of yesterday.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

VICEREGAL LODGE, 21st April 1900.—Very fine and warm. Sat in the garden. Later we were all photographed by Lafayette. In the afternoon at four drove in the large carriage and four, Lenchen and Beatrice sitting backwards, to the Review Ground called the Fifteen Acres. Had a Sovereign's escort of Life Guards. We drove through enormous crowds, who cheered tremendously. I received the royal salute on arrival, then drove slowly down the line, Arthur riding next to my carriage. On returning to the saluting point the march past took place. The Naval Brigade Field Batteries and Bluejackets with their maxim guns came first, then the Marines, 2,100 from the Channel Fleet, Sir Harry Rawson standing

¹ Writing on 27th April, detailing the proceedings of the Cabinet that day, Lord Salisbury added: "Your Majesty's telegram with respect to the necessity of submitting previously to your approval steps so important as the publication of the Spion Kop despatches was duly read to the Cabinet."

by my carriage as they passed. Next came all the troops, the little boys of the Hibernian School bringing up the rear. At the end of the review, Arthur called for three cheers for me. We then drove home amidst such tremendous cheering as I have never heard. Only the ladies to dinner; afterwards Madame Ella Russell sang to us quite charmingly.

The Duke of Devonshire to Sir Arthur Bigge.

LISMORE CASTLE, 22nd April 1900.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—I received your cypher telegram last night.

I was surprised to see the despatches in the newspapers, but not having been present at the last Cabinet, which was held after I came to Ireland, I could not tell how the decision as to publication was arrived at.

Her Majesty will have seen from the War Office telegram of 25th March, and telegrams to and from Lord Roberts, that the publication was not hastily or inadvertently decided on, but that Lord Roberts was very fully consulted, and the embarrassing consequences of publication pointed out to him. I have not seen any further telegrams on the subject since those of 31st March, but up to that time Lord Roberts does not seem to have had any strong opinion one way or another as to the form in which the despatches should be published, if at all.

As I have said, I was not present at the last Cabinet, and cannot tell what took place then, but I am surprised that Lord Salisbury should think that the S. of S. for War has misunderstood the decision. Her Majesty will no doubt have observed that not only certain documents have been omitted altogether, but those which have been published have been considerably edited. There are no doubt many passages retained which are extremely inconvenient, but whether these could have been omitted without injustice to some of the officers concerned I am unable to say. I remain, yours sincerely, DEVONSHIRE.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

VICEREGAL LODGE, DUBLIN, 22nd April 1900.—I must insist upon knowing what is to be done when Parliament reassembles about the deplorable blunder of publishing the despatches, as the question is certain to be brought forward.

Mr. Long is reported to have publicly assumed, for the *Government*, responsibility for this act. But you have explained to me that such is *not* the case. You ought to repudiate Lord Lansdowne's action, which is unprecedented, and which, if followed in the future, will ruin the discipline of the Army.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

23rd April 1900.—Mr. Long's speech was not very dexterous; but he does not seem to have laid down any unsound doctrine. It is a fundamental rule that no Cabinet Minister can speak publicly in opposition or censure any of his colleagues. Mr. Long did his best to defend a step which evidently puzzled him. Your Majesty says, "You ought to repudiate Lord Lansdowne's action, which is unprecedented." If I did so publicly, he would certainly resign. Probably the other three Liberal Unionists would take the same course and perhaps some others; and a change of Government or a dissolution must necessarily follow. It would be a great responsibility to bring about these events in the very crisis of war. Lord Lansdowne denies that he consciously disobeyed the Cabinet; but he did not understand them to have negatived publication.

[*Copy.*] *Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.*

23rd April 1900.—I have received your telegram, and understand the difficulty of repudiating Lord Lansdowne's blunder. But I must ask what you now intend to do, as the feeling, especially in the Army, is so strong against this deplorable step.

The country must have some assurance that such

a thing will not happen again, and I must insist that matters of so great importance shall not be decided without reference to me, and I beg you to make this clear to Lord Lansdowne.

[Copy.] *Sir Arthur Bigge to Viscount Wolseley.*

VICEROYAL LODGE, DUBLIN, 22nd April 1900.

MY DEAR LORD WOLSELEY,—The Queen desires me to write to you respecting the publication of the Spion Kop despatches. Her Majesty was perfectly aghast when these appeared in the Press; more especially as she understood from you that they were *not* to be made public.

Her Majesty, knowing your love for the Army, your pride in its tradition, your jealousy of its honour, cannot help being surprised that you should have consented to the publication, at the present time, of reflections upon the conduct and capacity of Generals who were actually in exercise of the high commands for which you had respectively selected them.

The Queen quite realises that these Generals have, like most others, made mistakes: her Majesty further fully understands the terrible responsibility which they accept of the lives of those whom they lead. Her Majesty, therefore, could have appreciated the necessity for pointing out the blunders committed, and even for private reproof of those at fault.

But, while the war is actually going on, to announce in every newspaper these strictures is to officially brand as incompetent those whom the men have, like all good soldiers, because they *are* their Generals, hitherto believed in and followed.

The Queen is not so much concerned for the Generals as for the whole discipline and *esprit de corps* of the Army, which must suffer dangerously by this unprecedented exposure to subordinates of the faults of their superiors.

The Queen asks herself, "Who is benefited by this?" Not the soldiers, whose confidence in their leaders is shaken; not the public, whose trust in the Generals

and in those who selected them is impaired ; not the Generals and superior officers of the Army, who must for the future be prepared for their mistakes to be made the subjects of public censure. So you see, her Majesty feels justified in deploring this unfortunate step, which was decided upon without her knowledge or approval, and the Queen appeals to her Commander-in-Chief for some explanation as to the military grounds upon which this decision was based. Yours, &c., &c., ARTHUR BIGGE.¹

Sir Francis Knollys to Sir Arthur Bigge.

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, Pall Mall, S.W., 24th April 1900.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—I have submitted to the Prince of Wales the correspondence respecting the publication of Lord Roberts's despatch. He was greatly interested in it, and desires me to say he is very glad to find that the Queen took the matter up so warmly ; and that he entirely agrees with every word that her Majesty has telegraphed and written on the subject. He is curious to know what Lord Wolseley's answer will be to your letter to him. What the Queen thinks of the publication is only what everybody, without an exception, of all shades of opinion says. Yours sincerely, FRANCIS KNOLLYS.

Viscount Wolseley to Sir Arthur Bigge.

24th April 1900.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—The idea conveyed in your letter that the Queen should think I had been in any way, or in any degree, disingenuous about the publication of the Natal despatches, has grieved me seriously.

The despatches about which I spoke to the Queen were different, I might say very different, from those published. They contained reports from both Buller and Warren. That from the former was to my mind a very unfortunate one, and had it been published

¹ On the same day Sir Arthur Bigge wrote to Sir Francis Knollys, enclosing all the correspondence on the subject for the Prince of Wales's information.

would in my opinion have damned Buller more than what Lord Roberts said about him. . . . I was so opposed to the publication of the original despatches that I asked Lord Lansdowne to telegraph to Roberts to leave out one paragraph and tone down another in his despatch. He consented to leave out the former, but would not act upon Lord Lansdowne's suggestion regarding the other. I regret this much for Sir Redvers' sake. . . . Sir Redvers was asked to allow us to keep back his report, and his answer was he would place himself entirely as regards it in *my* hands. So I kept it. Of course the outside world know nothing of either Warren's or Buller's despatches that have been kept back, or that any have been kept back or altered by consent of Lord Roberts and others. In my opinion we were bound to publish *some* despatches about the relief of Ladysmith. It was a very great operation carried out by about 30,000 men under Buller, and it would be impossible not to give the public the benefit of reading the reports of at least the officer in supreme command, I mean, Lord Roberts. . . . General Warren . . . is full of pluck; is clever, but he does not understand war. I rejoice that he has accepted a civil position, so as a soldier we shall never hear of him again. The man I am sorry for is Buller, for he has always been a fine fighting fellow. . . .

In conclusion, I can only say, that I am very very sorry Lord Roberts thought fit to say what he did about Sir R. Buller; . . . but I do not think the Government could have avoided publishing his despatches, much as I disliked the necessity for doing so. Believe me to be, very sincerely yours, WOLSELEY.

Memorandum by the Marquis of Lansdowne.
Very secret.

24th April 1900.—I learn with great regret from the Prime Minister that in his belief the Cabinet had arrived at a "clear decision" not to publish the Spion Kop despatches.

Our decisions are not always very distinctly

intimated to the Ministers who have to carry them out, but in this case I can recall nothing which, in my understanding, bore any resemblance to such a decision as was, I am now told, arrived at. I remember mentioning to the Cabinet the difficulty which I found in deciding what papers should and what should not be published. I said that some of the documents, notably Sir R. Buller's Memorandum of the 30th January 1900, which he described as "not necessarily for publication," and which has been omitted, ought, in my opinion, certainly not to be published.

I told the Cabinet that I had consulted Lord Roberts as to the selection which I proposed, that I had suggested to him as an alternative that he and Sir R. Buller should write fresh despatches, containing no doubtful matter, expressly for publication, but that Sir R. Buller had expressed himself as decidedly averse to rewriting his despatches for publication. My observation on this was that I would on no account place Sir Redvers in a position to say that he had been ordered to take back his account of the operations, and to substitute one more to the liking of the War Office. From this view I did not understand that there was any dissent, but I assumed throughout, and I thought I made this clear, that we must publish something.

We have, in fact, published despatches giving an account of all the more important engagements, and I do not see how we could have withheld those which had reference to the series of operations carried out on the Tugela by Sir R. Buller during the latter portion of January. We could not have said that no such despatches existed. If, admitting their existence, we had refused to present any part of them, the result would, I cannot help thinking, have been more damaging to the Generals concerned than the course which has actually been adopted.

The fact that there had been blundering at Spion Kop was an open secret. The letters of newspaper correspondents, and still more the letters sent home

by individual officers, were eloquent as to this. So far as Sir R. Buller is concerned, it seems to me that the moderate criticism of Lord Roberts, accompanied as it is by a distinct commendation of Sir Redvers' plan, ought not to diminish his authority or leave his reputation lower by a degree than it stood the day before publication took place.

Sir Charles Warren's case is different: he has shown himself incompetent, he has been deprived of his command, and it does not seem to me at all a bad thing for the Army that he should be publicly censured by his superiors.

I append copies of the telegrams which passed between Lord Roberts and myself. His consent is a proof that, in his opinion, the publication of the selected documents is not inconsistent with the interests of the Army.

I may add that Lord Wolseley was freely consulted as to the selection, and that, although he would no doubt have preferred (as I would) to publish nothing at all, had that course been open to us, he regarded publication as inevitable under the circumstances which confronted us.

In conclusion, I call attention to the language of the telegram to Lord Roberts drafted by the Cabinet on the 30th March. It runs as follows:

Your despatch of 13th February about Spion Kop puts us in a difficulty. Buller has under him about 50,000 men. He and his second in command have apparently quarrelled. We gather that, in your opinion, neither one nor the other have shown competence in recent military operations. *It does not seem easy to justify keeping them in their present positions* if they are to be entrusted with difficult operations in the future, or leaving all their troops with them if they are not. Please refer to my telegram of 9th February.

The words in italics certainly seemed to me to point to the approaching publication of the despatches.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

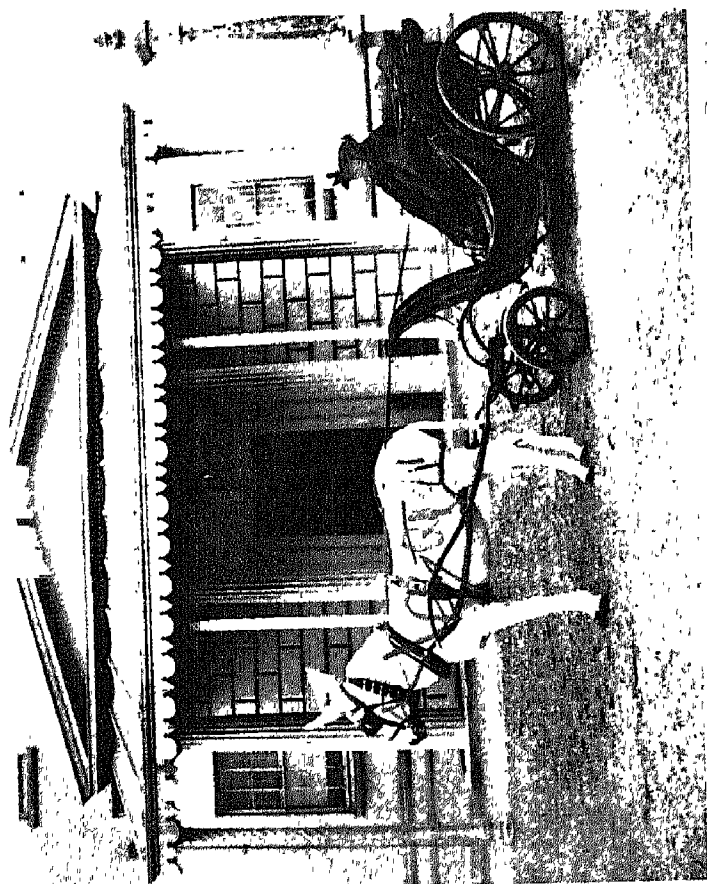
ON BOARD THE "VICTORIA AND ALBERT," 26th April 1900.—Directly after breakfast gave some

souvenirs to all my people. Went down to the smaller drawing-room at twelve, and there gave the Victorian medals which belong to the Order to twenty-six of the Royal Irish Constabulary (sergeants and men) and Dublin police, who had ridden with my carriage. I handed the medals to each, Arthur handing them to me. They all seemed very pleased.

I left the Viceregal Lodge with regret, having spent a very pleasant time there, though a somewhat tiring one. Lenchen and Beatrice drove with me, Arthur riding beside the carriage, and I had a Sovereign's escort of the Life Guards. Louischen and young Arthur met us at North Wall station. There were a great many people out. The line goes right round the town, and stops just at the landing-stage, where we got out. Lord and Lady Cadogan met us there, as well as some other officials. Arthur and Louischen and young Arthur followed us on board the *V. and A.*, and wished us good-bye, also the Cadogans, who do everything admirably, and have been most civil and kind. Had our luncheon in the deck saloon, and left at two, the Channel Fleet escorting us, but I unfortunately did not see much of it, as feeling very tired, I soon went below to rest. We had a perfectly smooth crossing, without the slightest motion, and I slept the greater part of the time. Came up on deck for tea. The Fleet left us just outside Holyhead.

I felt quite sorry that all was over, and that this eventful visit, which created so much interest and excitement, had, like everything in this world, come to an end, though I own I am very tired and long for rest and quiet. I can never forget the really wild enthusiasm and affectionate loyalty displayed by all in Ireland, and shall ever retain a most grateful remembrance of this warm-hearted sympathetic people. Even when I used to go round the grounds in my pony chair and the people outside caught sight of me they would at once cheer and sing *God Save the Queen*.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 30th April.—Saw Sir George



*Mr & Mrs Queen Victoria at the Grosvenor Lodge, Dublin
1900*

White before dinner, whom it seemed quite like a dream to see, as it is barely two months since Ladysmith was relieved. He looks wonderfully well, though very thin, and is so pleasant and interesting to talk to, so wonderfully modest. He praised immensely the conduct of the troops, and said that my messages, coming just at a time "when he was very miserable" after the loss of the two regiments, had cheered and helped him very much. Lenchen, Christian, Thora, Ismay S., Sir G. and Lady White, Lord Kintore, Colonel Legge, and Fritz Ponsonby dined. I drank Sir George's health, and had some more conversation with him after dinner. He told me that the atmosphere was so clear out in South Africa, that they had been able to watch from Ladysmith what was going on. They had seen the failure of Spion Kop, and also had watched and seen the vanguard of Lord Donald's force coming over the hill, at first singly, and they had not been sure whether they were foe or friend.

Sir George is a charming person and most agreeable. He had a very warm reception here, at Windsor.

2nd May.—A most beautiful day. Georgie arrived soon after breakfast. I saw the officers and men of the *Powerful*, whom I was to inspect, march up the hill and into the Quadrangle, preceded by the band of the Grenadiers. At half-past twelve I got into the carriage with Lenchen and Beatrice, Victoria B[attenberg], Thora, the Duchess of Buccleuch, and Ismay S. following in a second. Georgie, Louis B[attenberg], Sir Michael Seymour, and Sir G. White stood near my carriage. Captain Hedworth Lambton was presented to me by Sir M. Seymour, and handed me the state, after which I shook hands with him.

Then drove down the line and the brigade marched past. They had their guns with them, which were painted khaki colour, and are the same they had at Ladysmith. The men looked very well, having much recovered on the voyage home. The Marines had taken part in the battle of Graspan, and only five of them had not been wounded. At the conclusion the

men formed up and cheered, after which they advanced close to the carriage, and Captain Lambton presented the officers, including several midshipmen, amongst whom was Lord George Hamilton's son, who had been very ill. I addressed the following words to the officers and men: "I wish you all heartily welcome on your return home after the great trials you have so nobly borne, and I thank you warmly for the great services you have rendered to your Queen and the Empire."

I saw them march off to the Riding School, where the men had their dinner. The Mayor of Kimberley was there and was presented. Took a turn in the carriage, and came back to the stables, where I looked in at the men having their dinner. They again gave three hearty cheers.

Lord Curzon to Queen Victoria.

VICEREGAL LODGE, SIMLA, 2nd May 1900.—. . . Now the Viceroy comes to the concluding suggestions in your Majesty's letter, concerning the employment of the sons of Indian Princes and Nobles in the Commissioned ranks of the Army. The Viceroy has always looked forward to some such change as one of the most ardently desired measures of his Viceroyalty. He was aware of the strong feelings entertained by your Majesty on the subject, and which he may be pardoned for saying illustrate that instinct for the right thing of which your Majesty has given so many examples. The Viceroy was in correspondence with Sir W. Lockhart about it while he still lived, and trusted greatly to his co-operation in working out a scheme. The present juncture, when the Empire has shown such splendid loyalty, is a very suitable one for framing and announcing some such plan; and the Viceroy hopes before long to get matters into shape that will admit of their being reported to your Majesty. . . .

[Telegram.] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

BERLIN SCHLOSS, 3rd May 1900.—The reports coming from India have disclosed such a fearful

distress on account of the famine that they have evoked a feeling of sincere pity here.

A Committee has been formed with my approval, and has been able to realise a sum of over half a million in a very short time. This sum is being sent to Calcutta to be placed at the disposal of the Viceroy. I am fulfilling a happy duty in announcing this fact to the Empress of India. . . . WILLIAM I. R.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 4th May 1900.—Fine though windy. Went out with Beatrice. The King and Queen of Sweden came to luncheon from Roehampton, where they are staying, also Christian and Thora. The King and Queen are most kind and friendly, and very sympathetic about the war. They left again soon after three, having presented their numerous suite. Drove with Ismay S. and Mary H. Dictated to Beatrice on coming home. Prince Kotohito of Japan, who is in the succession, but not nearly related to the Emperor, was presented by Louis B. just before dinner, Lenchen and Beatrice being with me. Besides us five there dined Ismay S., Lord and Lady Pembroke, Mary H[ughes], Doris V[ivian],¹ Lord Kintore, the Japanese Prince's two gentlemen, Sir T. Sanderson and Mr. R. Synge (of the F.O.). The Prince, who is very pleasant and intelligent, and speaks quite good French, sat on my right. The news from South Africa continues satisfactory.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 6th May 1900.—I saw Professor Pagenstecher to-day, who examined my eyes very carefully, and found them no worse than three years ago.

¹ Daughter of the 3rd Lord Vivian, British Ambassador in Rome 1891-1893; maid of honour to Queen Victoria 1899-1901, and afterwards to Queen Alexandra; married Lieut.-General Sir Douglas (afterwards Field-Marshal Earl) Haig in 1905; now the widowed Countess Haig.

[Telegram.] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

BERLIN SCHLOSS, 7th May 1900.—Ceremony went off most happily. The boy¹ behaved very nicely. The way he took his oath was most touching and effective. So glad Georgie could be present.

Splendid summer weather. WILLIAM I. R.

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to the Prince of Wales.*

WINDSOR CASTLE, 8th (?) May 1900.

DEAREST BERTIE,—. . . I wish to express to you my earnest hope that you will not go to Paris for the Exhibition. All kinds of people of every sort will be there, and you would have to be perpetually watched and followed about—which would be very disagreeable to you—and even then would run great risk. We are all most anxious that your precious life should not be jeopardised.

Would you dine on Thursday or Friday? I should prefer Thursday. . . .

Ever your devoted Mama, V. R. I.

Queen Victoria to Lord Roberts.

[Copy.]

10th May 1900.—. . . The Queen's object in writing now is to explain the very unfortunate publication of Lord Roberts's despatch, with his opinion of the conduct of certain officers which he doubtless considered as confidential. This was the opinion and decision of the whole Cabinet, as well as of herself and the Commander-in-Chief. Suddenly, without informing the Queen or the Prime Minister and any of the other Ministers, Lord Lansdowne published them and his correspondence with Lord Roberts. The effect was most unfortunate and damaging, and the Queen is very desirous that Lord Roberts should know all this, and would strongly urge him to put "*strictly confidential*" and "*secret*," as there is not that caution exercised in the War Office which should be.

¹ The Crown Prince of Germany, who came of age.

The Queen hopes and thinks that it cannot happen again, and she has given orders that nothing of that sort should ever be published without her previous knowledge, but it is right that Lord Roberts should be warned.

The Queen would not wish anyone but Lord Kitchener to know what she has written on this subject.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE, 11th May 1900.—The Drawing-room began a little after three, Alix, Lenchen, Louischen, Victoria of Wales, Daisy, Bertie, Arthur, Georgie, and George C. being present. It was a very full Drawing-room. The Duchess of Devonshire took poor Lady Salisbury's place. Several brides were presented, including Lady Tullibardine and Lady Castlereagh. Lady Lathom was also presented on her change of title. I remained over an hour.

Drove at half-past five with Thora and Harriet P. Everywhere there were crowds of people, who were just as enthusiastic as when I was in London last. Had tea on coming in with Beatrice and Thora. To my great distress I found my dear little "Bully" dead in his cage. I shall miss him very much, as I had had him thirteen years.

The Duke of Argyll's¹ funeral took place to-day, there having been a great delay owing to many difficulties. Heard from Lord Kintore, who represented me, that all had gone off well, and been most impressive. The Duke was buried at Kilmun, the family burial-place. Bertie, Alix, Victoria, Georgie, May, Louise and Macduff, and Arthur and Louischen dined.

Viscount Wolseley to Queen Victoria.

16th May 1900.—Lord Wolseley presents his humble duty to the Queen, and is anxious to bring before her Majesty the question of promoting Colonel Baden-Powell, now defending Mafeking, to the rank of

¹ The Duke had died on the 24th April. His eldest son, the Marquis of Lorne, the Queen's son-in-law, succeeded as 9th Duke.

Major-General as soon as that place is successfully relieved. It is hoped it may have been relieved to-day.

Colonel Baden-Powell has now been three years a full Colonel, and is one of the most promising of officers. His defence of Mafeking is beyond all praise, and Lord Wolseley feels that his promotion would be hailed by the Army as well deserved.

Young general officers are wanted badly at present. I have the honour to be, your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servant, WOLSELEY.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 19th May 1900.—Fine day. Went with Beatrice to the kennels. The following telegram was received from Major-General Baden-Powell, dated 17th May: "Happy to report Mafeking successfully relieved to-day. Northern and southern columns joined hands on 15th, attacked enemy yesterday, 16th, entirely defeating them with loss. Relieving force marched into Mafeking this morning at nine. Relief and defence force combined, attacked enemy laager, shelled them out, nearly capturing Slyman, and took large amount of ammunition and stores. Townspeople and garrison of Mafeking heartily grateful for their release."

Started at half-past three with Arthur and Jane C. for Wellington College, Beatrice having preceded us. Changed horses at Bracknell. The whole way along people turned out and cheered, especially where there was an immense crowd, who came up quite close to the carriage, cheering loudly, and finally singing *God Save the Queen*. Flags were hung up and pictures of General Baden-Powell exhibited in honour of the relief. The people are quite mad with delight, and London is said to be indescribable. Reached Wellington College at five, Colonel Legge meeting us on horseback outside the gates and Sir F. Edwards outside the college, where he presented the headmaster, Mr. Pollock.¹ Beatrice, with Drino, was also there.

¹ Now Bishop of Norwich.

Went first into the Chapel, where Mr. Pollock showed us the memorial to the late Archbishop Benson, who was first headmaster of Wellington. Then was rolled in my chair to the Library and big dining-hall, through the Cloisters, re-entered my carriage, and drove to Mr. Pollock's house, where we had tea. Sir Lintorn Simmons was there, who is one of the Governors, and lives close by. Mr. Bevir, one of the masters in whose house Drino is, was presented, as well as his wife. Left again at six. All the boys were drawn up, including the volunteers, and the head boy presented a bouquet in the college colours. There was tremendous cheering as we drove off, Arthur and Beatrice being with me. A very fine arch was put up near Wellington College, on which was inscribed, "Welcome to the Queen of Mafeking." Bracknell was beautifully decorated. Only Jane C[hurchill] and Victoria Grant dined with us.

Directly afterwards a torchlight procession, including the Eton boys, volunteers, and many of the townspeople came up into the Quadrangle. The fire brigade also took part. They marched round the Quadrangle, and sang *God Save the Queen*, which was followed by cheers. The Mayor came up, and I thanked him.

The King and Queen of Sweden to Queen Victoria.
[Telegram.]

SWEDISH GOVERNMENT, 19th May 1900.—We are delighted to hear of the relief of Mafeking, and send your Majesty most heartfelt congratulations on this event and other advantages lately gained by the British troops. OSCAR, SOPHIE.

[Télégramme.] *The King of Portugal to Queen Victoria.*

LISBONNE, 19 Mai 1900.—Venant d'apprendre en ce moment libération Mafeking après héroïque défense vous prie accepter mes plus sincères félicitations.
CARLOS.

[*Telegram.*] *The Empress Frederick to Queen Victoria.*

FRIEDRICHSHOF, 19th May 1900.—Many affectionate thanks. Am indeed *delighted*. Am thankful this really good news. Congratulations. VICTORIA.

Queen Victoria to Lord George Hamilton.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

WINDSOR CASTLE, 20th May 1900.—I approve the honours proposed for my birthday, though still finding the same fault in not having enough natives amongst them.

But I am surprised and disappointed at not seeing the name of one of the devoted nurses for whom specially in fact I and you also wanted this medal to be instituted. It seems to me that very few of them who exposed their lives are mentioned. I would wish this omission to be rectified before I approve the medal of the Kaiser-i-Hind.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 21st May 1900.—Mr. Balfour with his humble duty to your Majesty begs humbly to inform your Majesty that at the beginning of the evening's proceedings Mr. Chamberlain made a statement on the subject of the changes proposed by the Government in the Australian Bill. The Opposition, on the first reading of the Bill, had indicated the not very patriotic intention of making mischief between us and our colonies out of the small difference which had arisen respecting the maintenance of the appeal to the Privy Council. Since the first reading, negotiations have been going on between Mr. Chamberlain and the Australian delegates; and these have resulted in a complete agreement on the controverted points. Mr. Chamberlain's announcement of this fact practically defeated the Opposition tactics; and it became quite impossible to turn the bill into a controversial measure. Mr. Asquith at once recognised the fact; and made an excellent speech on the

new lines, quite without party bias, and doing full justice both to the framers of the Australian Bill and to the British Government. The second reading was passed unanimously amid loud cheers. . . .

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

21st May 1900.—Mr. Chamberlain presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and begs to ask your Majesty's pleasure as to the name of the new Colony formerly known as the Orange Free State. Mr. Chamberlain has consulted Sir A. Milner, who recommends that it should be designated the Orange River Colony, in which Mr. Chamberlain concurs. If your Majesty's approval is given to the Proclamation and Lord Roberts is ready, Mr. Chamberlain thinks that your Majesty's birthday would be an appropriate day for the issue of the Proclamation.

Queen Victoria to Mr. Chamberlain.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

WINDSOR CASTLE, 21st May 1900.—I quite approve the name of Orange River Colony, and the day of the Proclamation. Trust you hear reassuring news from Coomassie.

What a blessing and satisfaction is the relief of Mafeking so heroically defended !

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 22nd May 1900.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully and gratefully acknowledges your Majesty's very gracious congratulations to him and his family on the confirmation of the happy news from Mafeking. It is, indeed, a most blessed termination of a long and wearing anxiety.¹ No news as yet arrived giving any intelligence of the state of health in which the besieged were found. The strain of their long hardships and exertions must have been very severe.

¹ Lord Edward Cecil, Lord Salisbury's soldier son, was one of those shut up in Mafeking.

Lord Salisbury respectfully thanks your Majesty for allowing him to read the Viceroy's letter, which he returns.

Mr. Chamberlain's compromise with the Australian delegates appears to have been well received.

[*Cypher Telegram.*] *Lord Curzon to Queen Victoria.*

23rd May 1900.—Viceroy entirely shares your Majesty's desire to reward the faithful nurses. But though he mentioned them to local Governments, no names were recommended to him except two from Bombay, for order of St. John, which he accordingly submitted. . . .

He has given silver K[aiser-i-]H[ind] to five lady doctors and missionaries. If it is your Majesty's desire that K.H. should supersede St. John's for nurses, Viceroy will act accordingly in future, but local Governments seem to have found it difficult to pick out nurses as specially meritorious, where all have done well. Moreover, famine work has lately eclipsed plague.

[*Cypher Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to Lord Curzon.*

24th May 1900.—Do not wish K.H. to supersede St. John's for nurses, but they were chiefly in my thoughts when I proposed this new decoration, and now hardly any of them get it. I hoped it would partly take the place of the Royal Red Cross.

The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.

WIESBADEN, 23rd May 1900.

MOST BELOVED GRANDMAMA,—There is, I am quite sure, no doubt whatever that you may on this birthday thank Providence from all your heart for the way she has led you and your country. After months of anxiety and care, through many a dark hour of uncertainty, and amid the loss of many friends and brave men, Heaven has at last granted what you hoped for—success! The gift is well worth rejoicing over, and I venture to assert that among all people on the Continent there is no one who is happier on

your behalf than your eldest grandson. My sincerest and heartiest wishes for to-morrow are at the same time joined by the most fervent prayers for your health and life ! It will be with deep emotion that you can say to yourself that the whole British nation will keep your birthday with a joy and pride as never before ! Because, though many a family has suffered, yet the national honour and that of the Army has been maintained, and townspeople and garrisons that have fought and suffered for their Queen and her cause have been relieved ! The whole of us will to-morrow be assembled with dear Mama at Friedrichshof to drink your health with all our hearts. Mama is pretty well, and seems to suffer less pain just now. Our present is a clock surrounded by the photos of Dona, me, and the children, your great-grandchildren ; our idea was the German proverb *Dem Glücklichen schlägt keine Stunde !* So may it ever be for you, that is the fervent wish of your most devoted and dutiful grandson, WILLIAM.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 24th May 1900.—Again my old birthday returns, my eighty-first ! God has been very merciful and supported me, but my trials and anxieties have been manifold, and I feel tired and upset by all I have gone through this winter and spring. Beatrice came in early with a nosegay to congratulate me. Had my present table in my sitting-room, and received so many pretty things. Bertie and Alix gave me a lovely chain to wear in the daytime, a beautiful screen, and the Duke of Wellington's hands in bronze, from the Peel sale, which I am very glad to have. I have not the time to describe all the other gifts. All in the house dined, including Sir Walter Parratt and Mr. Forbes. After my health had been drunk, I proposed that of the Army in South Africa. We had some nice music after dinner.

The number of telegrams to be opened and read was quite enormous, and obliged six men to be sent

for to help the two telegraphists in the house. The answering of them was an interminable task, but it was most gratifying to receive so many marks of loyalty and affection. Some of the telegrams were very touchingly worded, and they came from every part of the world. I had a nice one from Lord Roberts, and from the Household Cavalry.

Administrator of Victoria to Queen Victoria.

[Telegram.]

VICTORIA, 24th May 1900.—All Victorians rejoice simultaneously and with glad enthusiastic hearts on your Majesty attaining to your eighty-second year in middle of very great happiness of your people, and very great triumph of your Majesty's Army. She [the Colony of Victoria] prays you may live for a long time in middle of undiminished happiness and glory.¹

[Telegram.] *Sir Alfred Milner to Mr. Chamberlain.*

SOUTH AFRICA, 24th May 1900.—Loyal women of Graafrinet desire to send following message to her Majesty the Queen: "From our hearts we congratulate our beloved Queen. May God bless her and soon restore peace to her Empire!"

[Telegram.] *General Baden-Powell to Queen Victoria.*

KIMBERLEY (MAFEKING RUNNER), 28th May 1900.—Your Majesty's most gracious message amply repays anything we may have suffered, and heartens us to renewed efforts to uphold the honour of our Queen. BADEN-POWELL.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[Cypher Telegram.]

4th June 1900.—With regard to Mr. Chamberlain's telegram to Sir A. Milner which I received yesterday, I earnestly trust that Lord Roberts will not leave so long as it is found necessary to continue military operations, and not before all military arrangements for the future are determined; and, remembering as I

¹ A similar message came from New South Wales.

do from former experiences, I do beg that sufficient troops may be retained to positively ensure us from any possible rising or attack from the Boers or disaffected Dutch. . . . The great fault we always commit is withdrawing our troops too soon ; then fresh troubles arise, and more have to be sent. Do not disregard my earnest warning or even protest. Surely it is too early to settle what is to be done, when Pretoria is not yet in our hands and the fighting not over.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

4th June 1900.—Humble duty. I will communicate with Secretary of State for War to prevent any orders for return of troops being given until matter can be carefully considered. Some form of Civil Government, however rough, may be necessary as a provisional measure. It will of course depend on the military support, and troops to maintain it must be retained in Africa. But a Military Government without any civil form is seldom successful. Even in the Soudan we had to set up a Civil Government supported by military force.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 5th June 1900.—Still feeling far from well, and could not breakfast out as I had hoped. Only got out for a short turn with Lenchen and Thora, and then sat out at the Cottage. A telegram came from Lord Roberts, saying : "We are now in possession of Pretoria. The official entry will be made at two o'clock this afternoon." This was, indeed, a great joy and satisfaction. Drove in the afternoon with May and Aline M[ajendie], taking our tea with us. Just before dinner heard from Lord Roberts the unsatisfactory news that a battalion of Irish Yeomanry had surrendered to a large force of Boers. Lord Methuen, who had been ordered to their assistance, made a wonderful march, but alas ! came too late. Almost directly after this received a further

telegram from Lord Roberts, saying : " The occupation of the town passed off most satisfactorily, and the British flag is now hoisted on the top of the Government offices."

[*Telegram.*] *Lord Roberts to Queen Victoria.*

PRETORIA, 6th June 1900.—Your Majesty's gracious telegram has given us all the greatest gratification, sick and wounded doing well, nearly 200 officers and 3,500 prisoners have been released, 900 were taken away shortly before we reached Pretoria. ROBERTS.

[*Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to Lord Roberts.*

BALMORAL, 6th June 1900.—We have just drunk your health and that of the brave army in South Africa, with many cheers by torchlight. Am very anxious to know if you know where the 900 prisoners have been taken to. How is the Duke of Norfolk ? V. R. I.

Lord Kitchener to Queen Victoria.

PRETORIA, 6th June 1900.

MADAM,—Your Majesty will have heard by telegraph the details of our recent march here. The troops are all well and in excellent spirits ; they have marched splendidly, and whenever we have experienced resistance they have fought very steadily. The Cavalry and mounted Infantry have had the most of the fighting, and have greatly improved since we started. The Artillery and transport have also done well. I hope, however, we shall get some improved guns after this campaign is over.

Lord Roberts is very well, and stands the hard work he has to do wonderfully.

We have a very long line of communications, and the activity of the Free State Boers is a source of anxiety. There are no less than three divisions, as well as a large force of Yeomanry and mounted Infantry, and 2,800 men of General Brabant's mounted colonial troops on the Heilbron-Lindley-Senekal-Ficksburg line, but the Boers manage to get through

and threaten our railway. They have recently succeeded in surrounding a battalion of Yeomanry and in cutting off one of our convoys of supplies. I expect to leave here to-morrow for the south to look after matters on the line. If General Buller could get clear of Laings Nek, either to the north or into the Free State, it would be a great assistance.

It is very difficult to prevent our troops being caught in traps carefully prepared for them by an enemy that does not wear uniform, and can at any moment pose as honest farmers. They are apparently getting heartily sick of the war, and it may collapse before long. I hear the burghers are only kept in the field by the greatest persuasion of their Commandants, and the threats of Messrs. Kruger and Steyn of imprisonment and confiscation of property for all who hand in their arms. . . .

Mrs. Kruger and Mrs. L. Botha, wife of the Commandant-General, are both here and being treated with every respect.

It has been a great pleasure to release the prisoners ; they are looking pale and worn, and I hear some of the officers quite broke down and wept tears when they saw the troops marching through the town with bands playing, and knew that their captivity was over.

I have the honour to be, Madam, your Majesty's most obedient humble servant, KITCHENER.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

6th June 1900.—Sir Claude MacDonald's telegrams Nos. 95 and 96.¹ Situation looks very serious. Trust at all events we shall display no apathy, and that whatever is asked for by Sir Claude MacDonald will be agreed to.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

7th June 1900. Received 9.30 a.m.—Humble duty. Your Majesty's cypher. The Admiral has been

¹ About the Boxer Rising. See Introductory Note to this chapter.

instructed to concert his action with the other Naval Officers as Sir C. MacDonald desired. The widest discretion has been given to Admiral in regard to the measures to be adopted, as it would not be safe to give detailed instructions from here. The Admiral has increased his naval force at Taku.

The Emperor Menelek to Queen Victoria.

ADDIS ABABA, 8th June 1900.—The Lion of the Tribe of Judah hath prevailed.

Menelek II, King of Kings of Ethiopia, to her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, Queen of England and Empress of India, Protector of Religion and Defender of Christianity, Peace be to her Majesty.

I have received the two horses and dogs which your Majesty was good enough to send me; the horses were very good and fine horses, and the dogs were very nice and wonderful runners, for in our country we have never seen a dog that can catch a running hare. I thank your Majesty very much for sending me all this.

Regarding the southern frontier, I leave to your Majesty to settle it for me, for my wishes are to have our friendly relationship to grow stronger.

May the Lord preserve your Majesty in good health, with prosperity and peace to your Majesty's kingdom!

The Empress Taitou to Queen Victoria.

(?) 8th June 1900.—From the Empress Taitou, the Light of Ethiopia, to her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, Queen of England and Empress of India, Peace be to your Majesty.

I have received the book and engravings which your Majesty was kind enough to send me. I was longing always to have your Majesty's photograph, the reason I longed it was because I knew that I will never have the chance of seeing your Majesty, but my heart's wish was to see your Majesty in person.

I received the little dog your Majesty sent me.

He was a very nice little dog, but death took him from me.

I thank your Majesty.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

9th June 1900.—Feel anxious for personal safety of Sir C. MacDonald. Have you considered possibility of removal of Foreign Ministers from Pekin? If one of them were killed war would be inevitable.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

10th June 1900. Received 7 p.m.—Humble duty. It would be imprudent to interfere with Sir C. MacDonald's entire discretion as to his movements. If he left Pekin, Russia backed by France would remain supreme. We are hurrying up all the force available. Russia, not China, seems to me the greatest danger of the moment.

Sir E. Satow, Minister at Tokio, is unluckily in this country.

*Lord Roberts to the Marquis of Lansdowne.*¹

[*Telegram.*]

PRETORIA, 11th June.—In the principal square of Pretoria a pedestal with its foundations has been erected on which it was intended to place eventually the statue of President Kruger. The Army in South Africa desires, if permission is granted, to subscribe for a statue of her Majesty to be placed on this pedestal. Before, however, I can move in the matter, I shall be glad if you will ascertain if the proposal would be acceptable to the Queen. ROBERTS.

Endorsed :—

16th June 1900.—The Queen considers that, while the proposal is gratifying, it is premature. Lord Cross asked to explain this to Lord Lansdowne.

¹ Submitted by Lord Lansdowne to the Queen.

Lord Curzon to Queen Victoria.

VICEREGAL LODGE, SIMLA, 12th June 1900.—
 . . . With regard to the Honour Lists this year, the Viceroy would like your Majesty to know how earnestly he endeavoured to meet your wishes about the recommendation of Natives. He can of course only act upon the lists submitted by the Governors and Lieut.-Governors. Now he found upon enquiry that the next most eligible name for the C.I.E. (after the native names submitted) was that of a young man who had only been two years in the service of the Government, and is not yet twenty-five years of age. How could the Viceroy recommend this young Burman for an order, when on the lists were scores of names that represented twenty and thirty years' hard and unrewarded service? The Viceroy may assure your Majesty that he has gone and will go as far in the direction of conferring rewards upon deserving Indians as any of his predecessors have ever done, and as it is possible to do without depreciating the value of your Majesty's gifts. Public opinion in this country certainly does not accuse the Viceroy of being at all censorious or grudging in his recognition of native claims. It is his one ambition in India to leave the relations between the two races better than he found them; and the way to do this seems to him to be to hold the scales absolutely even, and to mete out equal justice, equal praise, reward, recognition, or, if it be necessary, equal criticism, censure, or punishment to both. . . .

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Lansdowne.
 [Cypher Telegram.]

13th June.—Consul Crowe 287, 13th inst. Treatment of prisoners¹ disgraceful and inhuman. Please remonstrate through Lord Roberts, point out difference of our treatment of Boer prisoners, and hold Kruger and Boer authorities personally responsible.

¹ These were some 900 prisoners whom the principal Boer army in the field were carrying along with them. See next page.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

16th June 1900.—Should be glad to hear your views on the state of affairs in China, which seem to me most serious; also please say what you propose to do.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

16th June 1900. *Recd. 7 p.m.*—Humble duty. Your Majesty's telegram of to-day. Troops are being sent forward to Hong-Kong and Singapore, to be replaced by Indian regiments. Viceroy of India has expressed himself ready to send a larger expedition. He has been instructed to prepare it. Mr. Goschen is sending a battleship and one or two cruisers from Mediterranean. Japanese have sent one thousand more men, and will be encouraged to send more.

Everything is at the disposal of Admiral Seymour. We are doing our utmost to keep our communications with him open. The fact that the Austrian Legation, which is the weakest, has been able to repel completely a Boxer attack shows that the Boxers are a mere mob.

[*Cypher Telegram.*] *Mr. Bertie*¹ *to Sir Arthur Bigge.*

18th June 1900.—Following received from Consul-General Lorenzo Marques No. 201. Doctor Bidenkap returned here to-day with the permission of Boer Government. He asks me for clothing, blankets, and medical comforts for our prisoners.

Their correct number is, 5 officers of Lieutenant's rank and 921 men. I am promised their names in a few days.

Doctor reports that all are suffering more or less from dysentery; their condition is piteous: no shelter, little food beyond rotten mealy pulp. This is not fault of Boers there, who are themselves no better off, but the fault of Government.

Doctor considers that their captivity cannot last

¹ Assistant Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office; afterwards Sir Francis Bertie, and Ambassador first in Rome, and then in Paris; eventually Viscount Bertie of Thame,

long under the circumstances, and he expects they will soon be sent here. I am sending to-morrow clothing and comforts. Doctor has been told by his Government to expect shortly 500 more prisoners and 15 officers, but he regards this as usual nonsense.

Lord Roberts to Queen Victoria.

PRETORIA, 21st June 1900.

MADAM,—I have had the great honour to receive two most gracious telegrams and a letter dated the 10th May from your Majesty since I reached Pretoria. I beg to offer my most respectful thanks for the same, and to assure your Majesty that the telegrams, which were published in Army Orders, have given the liveliest satisfaction to all the troops in South Africa.

Everything is, I trust, going on well here. The war still hangs on, and will continue to do so until we have been able to bring the whole of the Orange Free State to terms. Contrary to all expectations, the inhabitants in the north-east portion of that colony have proved themselves more difficult to deal with than the Transvaalers. The latter would, I have reason to believe, give in if they had only themselves to consider. With us in occupation of Pretoria and Johannesburg, they feel that it is hopeless for them to resist any longer. President Kruger is living in a railway carriage in constant terror of being captured and sent to St. Helena. He is distressed at being separated from his wife, whom he left here, and it is said he feels that he acted in a manner unworthy of the ruler of a Province, in having carried off all the gold he could lay hands on, leaving the State officials to be paid their salaries by means of notes which no bank, under existing circumstances, will cash. But the two States made a compact that there should be no peace overtures without the consent of both parties, and as Mr. Steyn is still able to hold out, Kruger has to live in his railway carriage, ready to move off at a moment's notice in the event of our troops appearing anywhere near him.

The country is of great extent, and hitherto I have had to be satisfied with limiting operations to that portion through which the main line of railway runs. It was necessary, in the first instance, to gain possession of the principal towns, for so long as they were occupied by the enemy, no one believed that we were getting the upper hand. We are now firmly established at Bloemfontein, Kroonstad, Johannesburg, and Pretoria, and the only places where the enemy exists in any numbers are in the neighbourhood of the Vaal river, to the east of Johannesburg and Kroonstad. Strong columns are moving in that direction, and, if all goes well, by the time your Majesty receives this letter the enemy ought to have been driven into a very small corner, a measure which will, I trust, result in a general submission. . . .

I have had two visits from Mrs. Botha, the wife of the Commandant-General who succeeded Joubert. She is a very nice person, Colonial born, not Dutch, and is evidently most anxious for peace to be made. On the second occasion of her coming here, she brought Mrs. Lucas Meyer, the wife of another Boer General, who wanted some little help which I was able to give.

Major-General Baden-Powell has been in Pretoria the last day or two. It was most interesting hearing all about the siege of Mafeking from him. I was glad to find him in famous health and spirits.

I am thankful to say that sickness is gradually decreasing. Enteric still exists, but the type is milder and the deaths fewer. . . .

In the fervent hope that this will find your Majesty in the best of health, and with my most respectful duty, I am, madam, your Majesty's most obedient humble servant, ROBERTS.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.
[Telegram.]

HOUSE OF LORDS, 26th June 1900.—Humble duty. Chinese Minister brings me telegram from Li Hung Chang as follows :

"Tientsin, captured by the Boxers and dispersed troops, was recovered and taken by the English and French forces proceeding now to Peking. Admiral Seymour, it is said, returned to Tientsin. I conclude from this that diplomatic body is safe, and I myself will proceed to the capital, as a telegraphic Imperial command reaches me." SALISBURY.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 27th June 1900.—Had some conversation with Mr. Chamberlain about the Australian Federation, the Bill for which has passed. I rather objected to the name Australian Commonwealth, and would have preferred Dominion, but he said it did not imply anything like a Republic, quite the reverse. The Australians merely wished for it, as they did not like having the same name as the Canadians. He thought the very best person to become the Governor-General of this great Confederation would be Lord Hopetoun,¹ who had done so well in Australia before. I rather demurred to this, as he will be a great loss to me, but can of course say nothing against it. What the Australians particularly wish, and Mr. Chamberlain also, is that a Prince should open the first Parliament of this great Confederation.

Some of the Colonials had already offered to go to China if it was wanted, and he thought this offer ought to be accepted. But none of those who had fought in South Africa could go there. He lamented with me over the Indians having been quite left out of the war, when all the others had joined. He hoped the accounts from South Africa were improving, but feared there had been some neglect of late in looking sufficiently after the sick, so many of whom had died in great numbers.

28th June.—My Coronation day. At half-past three the Khedive arrived. Arthur and Georgie brought him into the Audience-room. His brother

¹ The 7th Earl of Hopetoun, who had been Governor of Victoria 1889-1895, and was Lord Chamberlain 1898-1900. He was Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia 1900-1902, and was created in 1902 Marquis of Linlithgow.

Prince Mehemet Ali came with him. The Khedive looks well, but is still weak. He has rather a good-looking face, but is short and stout. Beatrice and Marie were with me. I asked him to sit down, and we talked for a little while, after which he presented his suite, who came in severally. The Sirdar and Sir Rennell Rodd were amongst them. The Khedive is pleasing and speaks English quite fluently, but French and German come almost more easily to him. Had tea, as usual, at Frogmore, near the Cottage, and drove with Marie. Had a large dinner in the dining-room, and I sat between the Khedive and Georgie. The band of the Grenadiers played during dinner, and the private band afterwards. Sat in the Red drawing-room. Talked to most of the Khedive's suite, also to Lord Salisbury, who spoke again of Lord Hopetoun's appointment.

Mr. Balfour to Queen Victoria.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 29th June 1900.—Mr. Balfour with his humble duty to your Majesty begs humbly to inform your Majesty that the whole evening was expended in discussing Mr. Burdett-Coutts's letter to *The Times* on the alleged medical breakdown in South Africa. Mr. Wyndham rose as soon as it became clear that Mr. Coutts was unwilling to begin the debate. He made a very full and most excellent speech; he showed that all necessary medical supplies had been sent out, that the difficulty was one of transport, and that the extreme rapidity of Lord Roberts's march made it absolutely inevitable that there should be a partial and temporary breakdown of hospital arrangements. Mr. Coutts followed. He was very long and rambling; but he absolutely exonerated the Government, and attributed the errors which he enumerated to local officials. The Opposition then took up the cry, and Mr. Balfour regrets to have to say that the line they adopted was very little to their credit. They were manifestly anxious to twist the debate for merely party purposes. From

the nature of the case they could only attack the Government by attacking the Generals ; and this they did without the least reason or the least scruple. This style of debating reached its culmination in a speech of Mr. Lloyd George, who actually went the length of asserting that the Generals in the Field had sacrificed the lives of the troops to political considerations ! This was too much for Mr. Balfour, who replied in somewhat warm language, reiterating the unanswerable arguments used by Mr. Wyndham earlier in the evening. Sir H. Bannerman concluded the debate in a characteristically colourless oration. There was no division.

The Lord Mayor of Dublin to Sir Fleetwood Edwards.

MANSION HOUSE, DUBLIN, 30th June 1900.

DEAR SIR FLEETWOOD EDWARDS,—It is with feelings of the greatest gratification that I write to acknowledge having received into my custody for the citizens of Dublin the splendid cup which her Majesty has been graciously pleased to present to the City. It is certainly a magnificent memento of her visit to Dublin, and one which will always be treasured by our citizens amongst their choicest possessions, as being a token of her Majesty's appreciation of, and her pleasurable feelings regarding her visit to, her Irish subjects in April 1900. With sincere thanks, I am, yours very truly, THOMAS W. PILE, Lord Mayor.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

30th June 1900.—Quite approve the proposal, mentioned in your interesting letter, of a Commission to enquire into the condition of hospitals in South Africa. As the complaints refer to the fever and other medical cases, think it most essential that a physician, not a surgeon, a man thoroughly experienced in the treatment of fever cases, etc., should be appointed.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 1st July 1900.—Distressing news has come from China, that the German Minister was murdered at Pekin, already on the 18th of last month, by the Chinese regular troops, and that the other Legations are in the greatest danger. Feel very grieved and anxious about our good Minister Sir Claude MacDonald.

[Telegram.] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

WILHELMSHAVEN, 2nd July 1900.—On my arrival here the terrible news of the shocking murder of my Minister Von Kettler in China reached me, and also that the other Legations with their personnel are as good as lost. In consequence I have ordered the first division of my fleet to China, and shall send out a force of troops to join those fighting out there side by side with your bluejackets, who to my great satisfaction have been praised by Admiral Seymour. WILLY.

Sir Arthur Bigge to Queen Victoria.

2nd July 1900.—Humbly submitted. In consequence of your Majesty's representations 5,818 feather pillows were at once issued to the Cape hospitals and 1,450 to those at home.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 3rd July 1900.—The news from China is most despairing, but it is very difficult to get any authentic reports, and the news is so conflicting. Those, chiefly through Reuter, are terribly distressing, and we fear the worst for my good Minister Sir Claude MacDonald.

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

COLONIAL OFFICE, 4th July 1900.—Mr. Chamberlain presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and begs to submit for your Majesty's signature, if it meets with your Majesty's approval, a Commission authorising Lord Roberts to annex the South African Republic

to your Majesty's Dominions, and to make provision for the temporary settlement thereof. The Commission is in terms similar to that empowering Lord Roberts to annex the Orange Free State. If your Majesty approves, it is proposed to authorise Lord Roberts to issue, at such time as he may think fit, a Proclamation in accordance with the Commission now submitted.

Mr. Chamberlain also begs to submit for your Majesty's approval that the South African Republic, after annexation, shall be known as "The Transvaal." Sir Alfred Milner is in favour of thus reverting to the name by which the country was known when it was formerly part of your Majesty's Dominions.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 5th July 1900.—Very bad news from Peking, through Reuter. All the foreigners, including 400 soldiers, women and children, who held out at British Legation, till ammunition and food exhausted, reported killed, but this is not yet officially confirmed, so that one lives in hopes it may not all be true. Feel quite miserable, horror-struck.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[Cypher Telegram.]

5th July 1900.—I am horror-struck at the dreadful news from China, which Reuter gives this morning; is there not a hope it may not be entirely true? Such a thing would be quite unparalleled, and are we to stand and bear this worse than insult without some strong action? I feel quite ill at the thought of the poor MacDonalds and all the ladies and children, it haunts me day and night. Ought not the Chinese Minister to receive his passports if these news be true?

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[Cypher Telegram.]

5.20 p.m. 5th July [1900].—Humble duty. Your Majesty's cypher. It is impossible to exaggerate the horror of the news which we receive from China.

Unhappily, we have no ground to believe that it is untrue : we are urging troops forward with all rapidity in our power, but we cannot diminish the distance.

I have received from the United States Ambassador a letter to the effect that his Government still declines to regard the situation as that of war with China. He regards the condition of Pekin as one of anarchy, whereby power and responsibility practically devolve upon the local authorities. It appears to me that we should maintain the same attitude.

[Telegram.] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

BRUNSBUETTEL KOOG, 5th July 1900.—Just read the horrible news of the total annihilation of the Legations, foreigners, and soldiers in Pekin, and hasten to express my sincerest sympathy with your country at the loss of poor Sir Claude MacDonald. This means serious business. WILLIAM I. R.

Lord Roberts to Queen Victoria.

PRETORIA, 5th July 1900.

MADAM,—. . . I hear that a great outcry is being made about the management of hospitals in South Africa. There may, no doubt, be room for improvements in the system, but I can state from personal knowledge that medical officers and nurses have been most devoted, and that no suffering which could have been prevented with the means at our disposal has been allowed. I hear too it is the opinion of those who have taken part in wars in other countries, that they have never known a campaign in which so much has been done for the sick and wounded. We have established some very comfortable hospitals here, and have a large proportion of nurses. Enteric still continues, I grieve to say, but it is of a milder type than formerly.

I wish I could tell your Majesty that the war was likely to end soon, but at present the Boers seem inclined to hold out. I trust, however, it will not be very long before peace is made.

With my most respectful duty, I am, Madam, your Majesty's most obedient humble servant, ROBERTS.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 6th July 1900.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully submits to your Majesty that a Cabinet Council was held to-day.

It was almost exclusively occupied in considering the present terrible state of things at Peking, and the possibility of relieving Sir Claude MacDonald and the other prisoners. The prospect looked very gloomy, but we held that it was not yet time to abandon all hope. It was therefore resolved to offer to the Japanese to contribute financial support so far as might be wanted, for an advance to Peking for the relief of the prisoners. We also sent a further message to Sir Edward Seymour, pressing him further with respect to an immediate advance.

Some discussion was also given with respect to the Commission on medical treatment in South Africa. In deference to the wish of the House of Commons, it was resolved to appoint five¹ Commissioners, finding the other two among distinguished railway officials and commercial leaders. Sir James Thornton, of the Caledonian Railway, and Sir [John] Wolfe Barry are mentioned.

6th July.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully submits to your Majesty that the Chinese Minister this evening brought to him a message from Li Hung Chang, that the Legation was, *according to his belief*, still unhurt.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 11th July 1900.—At three o'clock left for London, and drove to Buckingham Palace through crowds of most enthusiastic people. I rested a little upstairs, and at five got into the victoria with Alix, as three years ago, for the garden-party, going first up to the tent where were all the Royal Family and then drove twice round among the guests

¹ The original three were Lord Justice Romer, Dr. Church, President of the Royal College of Physicians, and Prof. Cunningham, formerly head of the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin.

in the most broiling heat. After having tea we left, just as we came, at twenty minutes to seven. The crowds were still greater than when we arrived. I was dreadfully hot and rather tired.

[*Telegram.*] *The Emperor of Korea to Queen Victoria.*

SEOUL, 13th July 1900.—I beg to express to your Majesty my sincerest participation in the anxiety you must feel for the safety of your representative in Pekin. Assuring you of my sincerest friendship, I am, HIUNG, EMPEROR.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 18th July 1900.—Saw a private of the Scots Guards in the proposed khaki working and fighting dress, which seems very good and practical. The man himself liked it, and said it was very comfortable.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 20th July 1900.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully submits that a Cabinet was held yesterday.

The deliberations were protracted, but they were entirely occupied with the consideration of the course to be pursued by your Majesty's Government, now that it seemed too probable that the Legations have been slaughtered. . . . The Cabinet discussed at length the possibility of putting some foreign General at the head of all the European forces. On the whole they were adverse to the idea ; but there was a great difference of opinion. Lord Salisbury felt that unity of command would be of great importance and value ; but it was an entirely new experiment to put a large body of English soldiers under a foreign military Commander ; and before we did so it would be at all events necessary to come to a very clear understanding as to the ultimate objects for which the various contingents of the several powers were to fight. For the present it was resolved to ask for further explana-

tions from Count Lamsdorff¹ as to the meaning and aim of several of the expressions in the circular which Monsieur Sellar had made. . . .

[*Telegram.*] *Lord George Hamilton to Queen Victoria.*

WHITEHALL, 20th July 1900.—Lord George Hamilton with his humble duty. Viceroy telegraphs that the Maharajah Sindhia of Gwalior has offered fully equipped hospital ship for China, on which he is willing to spend twenty lakhs of rupees. This offer is made on behalf of himself, his mother and his wife, to testify their loyalty to her Majesty the Queen Empress. Lord George Hamilton begs to be authorised, while accepting offer on behalf of H.M.'s Government, to convey to his Highness through the Viceroy the expression of your Majesty's appreciation of the value of this princely gift, and of the spirit of loyalty and personal devotion which has inspired it.

[*Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to the Maharajah Sindhia.*

OSBORNE, 21st July 1900.—I must ask your Highness to accept my warmest thanks for your splendid gift of a hospital ship, which has touched me deeply. V. R. I.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Queen Victoria.

WAR OFFICE, 21st July 1900.—Lord Lansdowne presents his humble duty to the Queen, and he has the honour to lay before your Majesty copies of telegrams addressed to him by Lord Roberts and by Sir Alfred Milner to the Secretary-of-State for the Colonies.²

Lord Lansdowne has considered the proposal in consultation with the Commander-in-Chief, and he agrees with Lord Wolseley in thinking that one medal only should be given for the South African campaign.

¹ Russian Foreign Minister in succession to M. Mouravieff, who had died.

² Suggesting that a special star, in addition to the war medal, should be issued to the South African forces, as this was the first war in which Colonial troops came voluntarily to fight beside British troops.

There have been wars in which your Majesty's troops have had more than one decoration conferred upon them, but this has almost invariably been when they have served side by side with Forces supplied by other Powers, the Rulers of which have bestowed their medal upon the British as well as their own troops.

Lord Lansdowne shares Lord Wolseley's objection to the multiplication of such distinctions, and the gift of a second decoration "regarded as coming from her Majesty the Queen herself" (to use Sir Alfred Milner's words) would have the most unfortunate effect of creating an impression that the South African medal was *not* conferred by your Majesty. Lord Lansdowne deprecates any action calculated to support so mischievous an assumption. He proposes to insist upon the fact that the medal, with its numerous clasps, is bestowed by your Majesty, and he trusts that it may be your pleasure to decorate personally some representatives of the Colonial Forces when they reach this country.

Lord Lansdowne did not feel justified in dealing with this question without your Majesty's approval, which he trusts he may have the good fortune to obtain.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

OSBORNE, 24th July 1900.—Entirely agree with you and Lord Wolseley that there ought to be no other decoration but the War Medal with clasps. The soldiers and Colonials should be made to understand that it is the Sovereign's gift and reward, and the greatest which can be given.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 22nd July 1900.—Had a very bad night and much pain in my back, from which I have now suffered for some time, only getting to sleep at five this morning, so I had breakfast rather late.

24th July.—Received a telegram from Mr. Goschen saying following just received from Admiral Seymour: “By latest reports Legations at Peking still holding out, prospect more hopeful.” The news from South Africa much the same. Fighting continues and results in nothing very definite.

Have heard from Missy¹ both by letter and telegram that poor Affie is very seriously unwell. His throat and tongue having been very painful for some time at Herculesbad, he was stopping at Vienna to consult the doctors there, on his way home. His own doctor said the best authorities did not think well of him. This makes me anxious.

25th July.—Was much distressed this afternoon to hear of a cypher from Mr. Milbanke, which was at first withheld from me, that the physicians think most seriously of poor dear Affie’s state of health. A report is coming from the doctors, who wished I should be prepared for its being of an alarming nature. The malady it appears is incurable, and alas! one can only too well guess at its nature! Affie himself is quite ignorant of the danger in which he is, and the doctors wish him on no account to be informed. He leaves Vienna for Coburg to-morrow.

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

COLONIAL OFFICE, *26th July 1900.* — Mr. Chamberlain presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and begs to submit the following statement in regard to future appointments of Australian Governors.

In recent times these posts have been filled by noblemen and others, generally possessed of large private means, who have been able and willing to spend very considerable sums in addition to their official incomes which have been provided by the Colonies. But of late it has proved to be increasingly difficult to find gentlemen who are prepared to make

¹ The Duke of Coburg’s daughter, who married the Crown Prince of Roumania, and is now the Queen Dowager of Roumania.

this large pecuniary sacrifice, amounting in some cases to many thousands a year. With the appointment of a Governor-General the office of State Governor will become one of less status and responsibility than formerly, and it appears that some of the Colonies propose to reduce the salaries, which have already proved insufficient.

Mr. Chamberlain has accordingly informed the Governments of the Colonies that under the altered circumstances it will be necessary for him to recommend to your Majesty, for the office of State Governor, gentlemen who have distinguished themselves in some branch of your Majesty's service, but who, not possessing large private means, will not be able to maintain the scale of hospitality hitherto adopted. The Colonial Governments have acquiesced in this view, and Mr. Chamberlain proposes that the gentlemen who may be appointed by your Majesty should receive positive instructions not to spend more than the salaries provided for them.

Before formally submitting any names to your Majesty Mr. Chamberlain thinks that, in view of the strong prejudice which formerly existed in Australia against the appointment of gentlemen whose service had been confined to Crown Colonies, it would be wise to consult confidentially Premiers of the several Colonies and to find out whether such appointments would be acceptable.

Mr. Chamberlain trusts that your Majesty will approve of this course being taken in the present instance, and in that case, and in the receipt of a satisfactory reply from the Colonies, he will submit recommendations to your Majesty for the three Colonies which are or will be shortly vacant. As at present advised Mr. Chamberlain thinks that Sir Arthur Havelock, now Governor of Madras, would be a good appointment for Victoria, Sir W. Hayne Smith, now Governor of Cyprus, for West Australia, and Sir Robert Llewellyn, now Administrator of the Gambia, for Tasmania; but if your Majesty should

be pleased to approve of the course proposed, he will make further enquiries before finally submitting their names for your Majesty's approval.

Memorandum by Sir Arthur Bigge.

30th July 1900.—Sir A. Bigge wrote and thanked Mr. Chamberlain for this letter, and said that the Queen quite approved of the course he proposed to take respecting the appointment of future Governors of the Australian Colonies.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 27th July 1900.—Received the report I have been so anxiously expecting. The account the doctors give of poor dear Affie's condition is very alarming. Am terribly anxious and upset.

29th July.—Saw Mr. Balfour, and had some conversation with him, as I had already had last night. He spoke of a dissolution taking place this autumn, which he thought was advisable. Lord Salisbury had also mentioned this to me the other day. It would then only be on the settlement of South Africa, whereas if it took place later on there might be all sorts of difficulties and other questions, religious, etc. Of course there was no fear of the Government not having a good majority, though it might be as well if it were less large. Then talked of various other things.

Had a letter from Mr. Milbanke, giving the same sad account of dear Affie. We are very anxious, and Bertie wrote most kindly, proposing Sir Felix Semon should go and see him.

Just before dinner received a most satisfactory telegram from Lord Roberts saying: "Your Majesty will be pleased to hear that General Prinsloo with his army, numbering about 5,000, surrendered unconditionally to-day to General Hunter at Fauresberg." This is indeed good news.

30th July.—Was horrified on coming out to breakfast to hear that the good kind King of Italy had been

shot at and killed last night, when returning from giving away prizes at a gymnastic school. The assassin, named Bressi, had lived for some time in America, and was an avowed anarchist. Much distressed, as the King had always been so very kind to us, and sent such kind telegrams on all occasions.

After luncheon had a telegram from Ernie Hohenlohe in answer to one of mine, enquiring if there was any immediate danger. He said it might go on some time, but serious complications might arise at any time. At the same time got a telegram from Sir Condie Stephen saying Affie had had a fair night, but was weaker and drowsy, which I did not like. Before dinner heard again that he was a little better, and had sat in the garden with Marie and Ernie of Hesse.

[*Télégramme.*] *Queen Victoria to the Queen of Italy.*

OSBORNE, 30 *Juillet* 1900.—Les paroles me manquent pour exprimer l'indignation et le profond chagrin avec lesquels j'ai appris l'affreux malheur qui vous frappe, chère nièce. Je pleure avec vous la perte terrible de ce cher Roi; pour lequel j'ai toujours eu une grande affection et duquel je garderai un inoubliable souvenir. VICTORIA R. I.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 31st *July* 1900.—A terrible day! When I had hardly finished dressing Lenchen and Beatrice knocked at the door and came in. I at once asked whether there were any news, and Lenchen replied, "Yes, bad news, very bad news; he has slept away!" Oh, God! my poor darling Affie gone too! My third grown-up child, besides three very dear sons-in-law. It is hard at eighty-one! It is so merciful that dearest Affie died in his sleep without any struggle, but it is heartrending. Poor darling Marie, who knew of no real danger when she left, such a short time ago, without a fear. It is too terrible also for the poor daughters, who adored their father!

I was greatly upset, one sorrow, one trial, one

anxiety, following another. It is a horrible year, nothing but sadness and horrors of one kind and another. I think they should never have withheld the truth from me, as long as they did. It has come such an awful shock. I pray God to help me to be patient and have trust in Him, who has never failed me! Everyone is quite stunned, and telegrams began to pour in, already even from India, and the whole day questions to be answered and messages sent. Felt terribly shaken and broken, and could not realise the dreadful fact. Recollections of dear Affie's childhood and youth, and nowhere more vivid than here, crowded in upon me. People are so dreadfully shocked, and the Navy feels it deeply, for he was much beloved in the service, and greatly admired, having been such an excellent officer.

The whole day was spent in writing and answering telegrams. Lenchen and Beatrice, who feel this sad loss dreadfully, were most helpful. Took a short drive with them after tea round by the sea, and we four dined alone together. Afterwards Lenchen read me some very pretty articles out of the *Globe*, *Pall Mall* and *St. James's*. I asked Bertie to come here, but he said he was too unnerved to come to-day, but would do so to-morrow. Dear Drino arrived for his holidays this morning.

1st Aug.—Had a good night, but could hardly realise our misfortune, on waking. Received the following touching telegram from dear Marie yesterday evening. "Dear Alfred passed away quite peacefully in his sleep this morning, after having been with us in the garden in the afternoon. Most merciful release from long suffering. Cannot realise this terrible blow." Bertie arrived with Tino. Bertie came at once to my room, and was a good deal upset, as he feels the loss of his dear brother terribly. We talked over everything, and he is going straight to Coburg to-morrow, with Georgie, Arthur, and young Arthur.

I then saw Tino, who has just come from Friedrichshof. Alas! he did not give a good account of

dear Vicky. He and Bertie left again directly after luncheon. Quantities of telegrams kept pouring in, and the day was spent in answering them. We dined again alone, and later Beatrice read to me in my room out of some of my favourite religious books, which was soothing.

[*Télégramme.*] *The King of Italy to Queen Victoria.*

MONZA REGGIA, 2 Août 1900.—Profondément ému par les tendres condoléances de votre Majesté, je la remercie de la consolation qu'elle a donnée à mon cœur qui n'oubliera jamais toutes les preuves de sa grande bonté. J'ose espérer que votre Majesté voudra reporter sur moi l'affection spéciale qu'elle portait à mon père bien-aimé, sachant que ma vénération et mon dévouement pour son auguste personne n'ont pas de bornes. VICTOR EMMANUEL.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 4th Aug. 1900.—Another most trying day. At twelve (eleven here) the funeral service will take place at the Moritz Kirche, and to-night our beloved Affie will be laid to rest near poor young Alfred, in the family burial-place. I cannot realise that we shall never see him again or hear his voice and merry laugh, which I hear always ringing in my ears! He was my own dear child, so full of talent, and we had such hopes of him in his new responsibilities and the position he was filling so well.

At eleven we had a service, at the same time as the one at Coburg. It was most impressive hearing the minute guns being fired by the *Australia*, which had come round to Osborne Bay for that purpose.

Lord Roberts to Queen Victoria.

PRETORIA, 8th August 1900.

MADAM,— . . . The war which your Majesty trusted was drawing to a conclusion . . . is not yet at an end, but I trust that the events which have occurred during the last fortnight will help considerably to bring it to a satisfactory conclusion ere very

long. The surrender of over 4,000 Boers to Sir Archibald Hunter near Bethlehem, and the move of Commandant De Wet with ex-President Steyn into the Transvaal, practically closes the war so far as the Orange River Colony is concerned. We are now doing all we can to cut off De Wet's force, and prevent their joining Commandant-General Botha, an intensely interesting and exciting operation, rendered more so by the great size of the country, and the extraordinary mobility of the Boers, who manage to slip away in the most marvellous manner. Lord Kitchener is in temporary command of the troops who are following up De Wet, and General Ian Hamilton has a column in readiness to move in any direction that may be required.

Your Majesty will, I daresay, remember your scarves made by your Majesty to be given to your Colonial private soldiers. There was the greatest competition to become the fortunate possessors of these scarves, and it took a very long time to get the required information, which would enable me to decide as to the merits of those eligible for such a coveted reward, on account of the troops being very widely scattered and so constantly on the move. It was finally settled that the following men were in all respects the most deserving of the great honour, *viz.* :

Canadians . . .	Private R. R. Thompson.
New South Wales	Private Duprayer.
New Zealand . .	Private H. D. Coutts.
Cape Colony . .	Trooper L. Chadwick.

It turns out, as your Majesty will see from the enclosed correspondence, that the Canadian recipient is an American. He is evidently a grand fellow, and as he is fighting for us, and was unanimously elected by his comrades in Roberts's Horse as the man most worthy in all respects to receive the scarf, I decided that the question of his nationality need not be considered a deterrence. I hope that this will meet with your Majesty's approval.

I am thankful to say that sickness is decreasing fast, both as regards numbers and virulence. Even Mr. Burdett Coutts could scarcely find fault with our hospital at present. There were some grains of truth in his strictures at the time he wrote his letters to *The Times*, but his statements were in all cases grossly exaggerated, and in some instances quite untrue, as I hope will be proved to the satisfaction of the Commission now on the way to South Africa to enquire into the matter.

As I telegraphed to Sir Arthur Bigge, the Army in this country sympathises deeply with your Majesty on the death of the Duke of Coburg. I am so very sorry that your Majesty should have this great sorrow at a time when there are so many important and serious questions to occupy your Majesty's attention.

The assassination of the King of Italy too is a terribly sad thing, and demonstrates in a deplorable manner how strong is the spirit of anarchy in some countries.

With my most respectful duty, I am, Madam, your Majesty's most obedient humble servant,
ROBERTS.

Hearing that Prince Christian Victor had no suitable appointment in Natal, I telegraphed and offered him an extra A.D.C.-ship on my staff. He has accepted, and will, I hope, soon join me. R.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 19th Aug. 1900.—Tea out with Thora, and just before received the most welcome news, for which I thank God most earnestly, that the Allies had entered Pekin, and found all well at the Legations. General Gaselee, with my Indian troops, seems to have done admirably. He attacked Pekin early on the 14th, which was held by the enemy, who resisted obstinately. The Japanese and Russians were on the north side of the canal, and the Americans and English on the south. During the night the Japanese blew up a gate on the east side of the Tartar city, the

Americans and English entering by the Jung Pien Gate. All forces had united at the British Legation. The Japanese lost 100 killed and wounded, while the Chinese losses were 400.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

[Cypher Telegram.]

20th Aug. (1900).—Humble duty. I received the good news from China with the deepest relief. A month ago we should not have deemed it possible. I congratulated Sir Claude this morning.

General Gaselee deserves the greatest credit.

The steps to be taken next will be a matter of great difficulty; but no decision ought to be taken till we have received the written reports describing the recent crisis and its causes.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 22nd Aug. 1900.—Did not feel very well all day. Rested and dozed after luncheon, which did me good. Had tea in the breakfast tent, and then drove with Lenchen and Emily A[mpthill]. When I came in saw Sir Condie Stephen, who had just come over from Coburg. He said how dreadful all had been, and how much he had felt it, and the suddenness of the end. He said little Charlie¹ had made an excellent impression.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[Cypher Telegram.]

OSBORNE, 22nd Aug. 1900.—Hope you will desire poor Sir C. MacDonald and family to leave Peking and get leave of absence, and that no future Minister to China will be allowed ever again to remain there if there is any sign of danger.

What answer will you give to Li Hung Chang's message to you?

¹ The Duke of Albany, son of Prince Leopold, and grandson of Queen Victoria. He had now become, by his uncle's death, Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. See above, pp. 384-5.

[*Telegram.*] *The Emperor of Korea to Queen Victoria.*

SEOUL, 24th Aug. 1900.—I heartily congratulate your Majesty on the rescue of your Majesty's Minister in China by the Allied forces, the news of which has given me the greatest pleasure. HIUNG, EMPEROR OF KOREA.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 26th Aug. 1900.—This ever dear day has returned again without my beloved Albert being with me, who on this day, eighty-one years ago, came into the world as a blessing to so many, leaving an imperishable name behind him! How I remember the happy day it used to be, and preparing presents for him, which he would like! I thought much of the birthday spent at the dear lovely Rosenau in '45, when I so enjoyed being there, and where now his poor dear son, of whom he was so proud, has breathed his last. Another birthday we spent ten years later at St. Cloud, in the lovely palace, now gone, when the Emperor and Empress were so kind to us and dear Albert was not well. His last birthday of all he spent at the Viceregal Lodge, and we went on to Killarney. All, all is engraven on my mind and in my heart!

[*Telegram.*] *Sir Claude MacDonald to Queen Victoria.*

PEKIN, 26th Aug. 1900.—I beg to express the gratitude of the besieged for your Majesty's kind solicitude and sympathy, and especially to express my own most grateful thanks for your Majesty's gracious telegram of sympathy with Lady MacDonald and children who are well. MACDONALD.

[*Telegram.*] *General Gaselee to Sir Arthur Bigge.*

PEKIN, 28th Aug. 1900.—Her Majesty's gracious message was received and communicated to the troops under my command, on their behalf I tender respectful thanks. The wounded have been sent back to Tientsin and Wei-Hai-Wei; from last reports are doing well. Health of troops here excellent. To-day Allies formally

marched through the Forbidden City, her Majesty's troops were second to none in appearance.

Memorandum by the Marquis of Salisbury.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 5th Sept. 1900.—Reasons for submitting that Parliament should be dissolved this month:

1. The Parliament is in its sixth year; and precedents are in favour of a dissolution in the sixth year.

2. It would be almost useless to continue the Parliament during another Session; for with the strong expectation which prevails of a dissolution, members spend all their time in canvassing their constituents, and cannot be got together for the work of the House; whereas, if there is a dissolution this autumn, they can devote themselves without reserve to their Parliamentary duties next year.

3. A critical period has been reached in the South African War; and also in the Chinese campaign; and your Majesty's Government, to whomsoever it may be entrusted, will act with much more confidence and effect if they are fully acquainted with the views of the electors, and are assured of their support. Europe is in an uneasy condition; and, if there should be any disturbance within the next few months, it will be highly inconvenient [if] your Majesty should be compelled, by the efflux of time, to hold a general election in the middle of it.¹

Mr. Chamberlain to Queen Victoria.

COLONIAL OFFICE, 11th Sept. 1900.—Mr. Chamberlain presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and begs to submit for your Majesty's approval, or alteration, a form of communication to the press announcing your Majesty's intention with regard to the visit of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York to Australasia.

A similar draft has been submitted to the Prince

¹ Lord Salisbury accordingly submitted to the Queen that Parliament should be dissolved on 25th September.

of Wales and approved by his Royal Highness, but Mr. Chamberlain has since made some slight alterations which he thinks are improvements.

[*Draft.*] *Memorandum by Queen Victoria.*

Sept. 1900.—Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to assent, on the recommendation of the Marquis of Salisbury, to the visit of their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of York, to the Colonies of Australasia in the spring of next year.

H.R.H. the Duke of York will be commissioned by her Majesty to open the first Session of the Parliament of the Australian Commonwealth in her name.

Although the Queen naturally shrinks from parting with her grandson for so long a period, her Majesty fully recognises the greatness of the occasion which will bring her Colonies of Australia into Federal Union, and desires to give this special proof of her interest in all that concerns the welfare of her Australian subjects. Her Majesty at the same time wishes to signify her sense of the loyalty and devotion which have prompted the spontaneous aid so liberally offered by all the Colonies in the South African War, and of the splendid gallantry of her Colonial troops.

Her Majesty's assent to this visit is, of course, given on the assumption that, at the time fixed for the Duke of York's departure, the circumstances are as generally favourable as at present, and that no national interests call for his Royal Highness's presence in this country.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to the Private Secretary.
[*Telegram.*]

WAR OFFICE, 11th Sept. 1900.—May we announce that her Majesty hopes, if possible, to inspect and present Colours to representatives of Colonial Forces who will be brought home at the end of the war? The date cannot, of course, yet be fixed with certainty, but early announcement is considered desirable by Mr. Chamberlain and myself. LANSDOWNE.

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Lansdowne.*

12th Sept. 1900.—The Queen finds it difficult to give any definite reply, but approves of an announcement being made to the effect that she will be glad to inspect and present colours to Colonial Forces on their return from South Africa if circumstances permit.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 13th Sept. 1900.—Heard that Kruger had gone to Lorenzo Marques, intending to embark for Holland, and taking a deal of money with him. But the fighting still continues.

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to Lord Curzon.*

BALMORAL, 13th Sept. 1900.—. . . The Queen Empress quite agrees with the Viceroy that too frequent visits of the Native Princes to England are not always desirable, but she thinks that this should not be done in too peremptory a manner. It would hardly do to refuse them to come for a short time, but not making a frequent practice of doing so. If the visits are only for a short time and to pay their respects to the Empress, the Queen thinks there can be no objection. . . .

Mr. Goschen to Queen Victoria.

ADMIRALTY, WHITEHALL, 13th Sept. 1900.—Mr. Goschen with his humble duty gratefully recalling your Majesty's gracious kindness to him for so many years, is anxious that your Majesty should hear from himself in the first instance rather than through any other channel a decision concerning his future at which he has arrived. He does not propose to seek re-election when the present Parliament is dissolved. He has now been more than thirty-seven years in the House of Commons, a very long spell for anyone who has taken as active a part in its work, as it has been his pride and pleasure to have done, and, being in his seventieth year, he feels that he may fairly claim relief from its engrossing duties.

The last five years, during which he has been First Lord of the Admiralty, have been a period of great and continuous strain, and the overwhelming responsibilities of the post, if he may so describe them, have contributed to make him desire some rest.

Mr. Goschen sincerely hopes that your Majesty will not disapprove the course which, though not without regret, he feels compelled to take, and the necessity for which has been borne in upon him for some time past.

*Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.*¹

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

15th Sept. 1900.—Lord Roberts's telegram No. 1161. The Government incur the gravest responsibility in refusing to carry out at once Lord Roberts's recommendations, when what he asks may be the means of bringing the war to a conclusion and averting further bloodshed. There should be no difficulty, since the Portuguese Government have allowed us free action across their territory.

I cannot too strongly urge upon you the extreme importance of sanctioning without delay the measures Lord Roberts proposes to adopt.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Cross.

[*Cypher Telegram.*]

15th Sept. 1900.—. . . Following telegram sent to her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Lisbon yesterday. "I thanked the Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires to-day for the kind offer of his Government, and stated we should be much obliged now if the Portuguese Government would prevent importation through Portuguese territory of provisions for the Boer Army. I reminded him that after its annexation, the Transvaal was to be looked upon as British territory, and that the flight of President Kruger had made that fact more evident. With the persons of the President

¹ The Queen sent a similar telegram to Lord Lansdowne. For Lord Roberts's proposals, see below, p. 591.

or his friends we have nothing to do. They must not make war from Portuguese territory as a base, but they were free to leave it, and their future destination was no concern of ours."

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 17th Sept. 1900.—Drove with Irène and May to the Birkhall approach, where we took our tea, which for me consists of arrowroot and milk. I have not been feeling very well these last days, and can eat very little. This has been a great trouble for some time past.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 17th Sept. 1900.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty gratefully acknowledges your Majesty's kind language and gracious enquiries. His four weeks of mountain air and comparative rest¹ have done Lord Salisbury an enormous deal of good.

He grieves very much at Mr. Goschen's decision, for he is a very valuable colleague. But he did his best before he went abroad to persuade Mr. Goschen to defer acting upon his resolution, but quite in vain. The terms he uses in his letter to your Majesty seem to intimate that he would accept a peerage if it was offered to him. If so, Lord Salisbury submits that there could not be a fitter occasion for the exercise of your Majesty's prerogative.

Lord Salisbury is pressing for the expenditure of a naval and marine force to occupy Komati Port as soon as possible.

Lord Salisbury has reflected carefully on your Majesty's suggestion of putting an Admiral at the head of the Admiralty. Assuming that he must be a Member of one House or the other of Parliament, it is not easy to think of a good choice. The Constituencies will not have Admirals of distinction (they rejected Admiral Tryon), and Admirals are generally too poor to accept peerages. Hedworth Lambton

¹ He had gone to Schlucht for his health.

might have done, but he is unluckily the other side. Lord Hood of Avalon would not probably meet with your Majesty's approbation. But Lord Salisbury would respectfully pray your Majesty to allow him to postpone the question of appointments until after the elections have so far advanced that their general drift may be looked upon as certain.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Queen Victoria.
[*Cypher Telegram.*]

18th Sept.—Lord Lansdowne presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and has with the Prime Minister's concurrence sent to Lord Roberts the following telegram. "Portuguese Government have undertaken to prevent the passage of munitions of war and food and forage to Transvaal. Proposal to send naval force to hold Komati Port and bridge is receiving careful consideration, but seizure of rolling stock from a railway company on Portuguese territory is impossible. It is also impossible to prevent President Kruger from taking his gold and his papers with him. All these questions may involve international difficulties, and require the most cautious treatment, but we earnestly desire to take all possible steps to enable you to end war expeditiously."

It would be impossible in Lord Lansdowne's opinion to go farther in the direction suggested by Lord Roberts, who does not realise international complications which might be created.

[*Copy.*] *Queen Victoria to Mr. Goschen.*

BALMORAL CASTLE, 19th Sept. 1900.—The Queen thanks Mr. Goschen for his kind letter, which she received a few days ago, and ought to have answered sooner, but she felt it very painful to do so. She wishes she could persuade him to reconsider his decision and to stay on a little longer for her sake and that of the country. But she fears, from the reasons for his giving up his arduous office, that they are too strong and too justifiable for her to hope for this.

Mr. Goschen will be a most serious public loss. She cannot sufficiently express this.

The Queen, however, feels that he is fully justified in wishing for rest. She wishes she could have the same, even for the shortest period ; for she does need it, and feels the constant want of it, at eighty-one—very trying and fatiguing.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 19th Sept. 1900.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty to your Majesty respectfully submits that it is now expedient that the Commander-in-Chief should be named who is to succeed Lord Wolseley.

The very general expectation is that Lord Roberts will succeed to that office. His former claims to it were considerable ; but the popularity he has obtained and the great services he has rendered during this war make it almost impossible that any other nomination should be made. Even if the result of the pending election should be to introduce other advisers to your Majesty, Lord Salisbury is confident that they would be at least as convinced as your Majesty's present Cabinet of the high expediency, amounting almost to necessity, of Lord Roberts being named to succeed Lord Wolseley.

The question of the *period* for which he should be named is a different question. Lord Salisbury hardly thinks the five years tenure to be wholly satisfactory. It is the common tenure of inferior appointments, where the guiding consideration seems to have been, that everyone, so far as possible, should have a share in the good things to be divided. But this reason can hardly apply to the Commander-in-Chief. It is an office of the first importance, bearing great responsibility, and much looked up to by public opinion, especially in troublesome times. The fitness of an officer to hold it can hardly be judged until he has been tried. If he is found to be well fitted, it is a great inconvenience to lose him, it may be, at an age when he is best

fitted to advise and guide his Sovereign. On the other hand, great disappointments sometimes occur, and men turn out to be less competent than was expected ; and it is not for the public service that a man should be fixed in the office for five years, when his incapacity has been recognised long before that period ends. Lord Salisbury is disposed to think that the office should be in form annual ; it being understood that it should be renewed from year to year, when the public service might seem to require it. The convenience of this arrangement in regard to a man of Lord Roberts's age is evident.

Lord Salisbury offers this last suggestion with much diffidence, and is quite prepared to find that there are objections to it, which are not evident to him at this moment. But he submits respectfully, and with all confidence, the selection of Lord Roberts on this occasion.

[*Telegram.*] *The Emperor of Japan to Queen Victoria.*

TOKIO, 21st Sept. 1900.—Beg your Majesty to accept my sincere thanks for the cordial reception so kindly given to Prince Kotohito during his stay in your country. MUTSUHITO.

[*Telegram.*] *Queen Victoria to the Emperor of Japan.*

BALMORAL, 22nd Sept. 1900.—I thank your Majesty most sincerely for your kind telegram. It gave me great pleasure to receive Prince Kotohito, and am very glad that he liked his visit to England. V. R. I.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 25th Sept. 1900.—Bertie and Arthur came to my room, and we had a long talk about the proposal to make Lord Roberts Commander-in-Chief and the many questions it entails.

Mr. Goschen to Queen Victoria.

ADMIRALTY, WHITEHALL, 25th Sept. 1900.—Mr. Goschen, with his humble duty, begs to express his

deep gratitude for your Majesty's most kind and sympathetic letter. He can assure your Majesty that he would not retire from the House of Commons and the Admiralty, unless he felt that the time had come when it was in every respect wise for him to do so. Your Majesty's wish so graciously expressed that he might remain a little longer would otherwise have had the greatest weight with him. But the moment for resignation or retirement is always difficult to find, and often damaging to colleagues, unless it occurs at such a general break as a dissolution.

Your Majesty speaks pathetically of the desire for rest often felt by your Majesty. The nation knows the self-sacrifice and courage with which your Majesty, in your eighty-first¹ year, discharges unremittingly the most arduous duties, and endeavours to repay them with the greatest devotion and affection ever paid to a Sovereign.

Queen Victoria to the Marquis of Salisbury.

[Copy.] [*Cypher Telegram.*]

27th Sept. 1900.—As I telegraphed on Friday, I was much surprised at your proposal that Lord Roberts and not the Duke of Connaught should be Commander-in-Chief.

I had always hoped the Duke would, after Lord Wolseley, be appointed to the position [for] which his zealous and conscientious service and great experience at home and abroad have fully qualified him, and in which he would be received with the general approbation of the Army.

Please remember all that occurred when he was so anxious to go to South Africa, and you assured me that his being prevented doing so by the Government would not injure his chances of succeeding Lord Wolseley. I also naturally wish to see him at the head of the Army during my lifetime.

¹ Actually eighty-second, as her Majesty had completed her eighty-first year on the previous 24th May.

However, as my Ministers think otherwise, I suppose I cannot object, and I only hope the high expectations of Lord Roberts will be fulfilled. So far the substitution of a subject for a member of the Royal Family has not proved very successful, and I know how anxiously the appointment of my son has been awaited.

I do not at all like the idea of the appointment being annual in tenure. This would tend to lower the office which I and my Army so desire to maintain and indeed raise. The Army requires in the Commander-in-Chief someone in whom they have confidence, and to whom they can turn and if necessary appeal. These relations would never exist towards the occupant of so shaky a position.

On the whole, I think the appointment should be made without reference to time, on the understanding that it may be extended if public exigencies so demand. But in thus yielding to the representations of my Ministers I must insist that you undertake that one of the first points in the Army Reform shall be a reconsideration and Amendment of the Order in Council of 1895, with a view of increasing the power and responsibility of the Commander-in-Chief, who is now virtually a cypher.

[*Draft.*]

[*Same day.*].—The Queen is anxious to know whether the slight changes which Lord Salisbury may have to recommend in the Cabinet will affect the War Office, or does Lord Lansdowne remain there ?

She would ask Lord Salisbury to suggest that Lord Wolseley be called upon to report confidentially upon his experiences as Commander-in-Chief ; to point out what seem to him defects in the machinery, and suggest the remedies.

Lord Salisbury has, himself, frequently agreed with the Queen how badly the Commander-in-Chief and the War Office worked together.

*Field-Marshal Count Waldersee*¹ to *Queen Victoria*.
[Telegram.]

TAKU, 27th Sept. 1900.—I beg to be allowed respectfully to report to your Majesty that I arrived at Taku to-day. FIELD-MARSHAL COUNT WALDERSEE.

[Copy.] *The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria*.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE, 28th Sept. 1900.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully thanks your Majesty for your cypher of yesterday. He laments very much if he has unintentionally misled your Majesty with respect to the possibility under present circumstances of nominating H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught to the Commandership-in-Chief instead of Lord Roberts. He certainly never intended to give your Majesty the impression that that would be a practicable measure.

The great services of Lord Roberts, his age, and above all the great enthusiasm which this year's war has gathered round his name, would have made it impossible to procure the assent of any Cabinet to the appointment of H.R.H. in place of him.

The moment would be singularly inappropriate, because reforms in our military system are being generally urged in a very democratic spirit; and all the unpopularity which the War Office and many officers of the Army have incurred has exasperated that democratic rancour to a singular degree.

The Duke, if he took office at this juncture, would concentrate this feeling upon himself, and his usefulness and future fame would be seriously compromised. It is not likely that Lord Roberts will hold it long, and there is now no other officer who can compete with the claims of H.R.H. . . .

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to Lord Roberts*.

BALMORAL CASTLE, 28th Sept. 1900.—I am very grateful for your last interesting letter of the 21st

¹ Who had been placed in command of the whole international force in China, but had not got out there till some weeks after the Tientsins had been relieved.

August, and am glad to hear how successful the various Generals have been; but it is painful to see how this guerilla warfare still continues. . . . V. R. I.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.
[Cypher Telegram.]

29th Sept. (1900).—Humble duty. Your Majesty's letter. A short time ago Lord Lansdowne informed me that it was not his intention to remain in the War Office after the General Election. I begged him to let matter rest till then, that any requisite arrangement might be dealt with at once.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Sir Arthur Bigge.

WAR OFFICE, 29th September 1900.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—. . . I confess that I am vexed at the manner in which the question of Lord Roberts's appointment has come before her Majesty. The Prime Minister I know did not like to intrude upon her after the Duke of Coburg's death, and I fear that in waiting for the psychological moment he waited too long. It is greatly to the Duke of Connaught's credit that he should have behaved as he has, and helped us at a really difficult conjuncture. . . . LANSDOWNE.

Queen Victoria to Sir Arthur Bigge.

BALMORAL CASTLE, 30th Sept. 1900.—Sir A. Bigge will have seen by the copy or substance of the cypher she received yesterday evening that Lord Lansdowne has actually asked to retire. She thinks this might be a good thing if he can get a good successor. But for Army and Navy we *must* get the *very best*, and to be both changed at the same time is a very serious matter.

Lord Roberts has already been offered the office of Commander-in-Chief. It is so important to consider very carefully these two first-named appointments. It is most unfortunate that the Queen cannot discuss these matters with Lord Salisbury personally. The only other course she can think of is to see Mr. Balfour, or

for Sir A. Bigge to *see* him, so as to impress upon him the necessity of the Queen's being thoroughly consulted, else the correspondence would be endless.

From the 2nd to the 8th there would be room for Mr. Balfour, and Lord Balfour of Burleigh could even [be] put off. The Queen wishes Sir A. Bigge would make any suggestions. What she is so anxious to prevent is Lord Salisbury's going too far with any appointment so that she could not make any objections.

The Queen writes in such a hurry that she fears Sir Arthur may have difficulty in reading it.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 1st Oct. 1900.—Dictated to Lenchen. Saw Lord James before dinner and talked over various things.¹ He is much pleased with the elections.

The King of Portugal to Queen Victoria.
[Télégramme.]

CASCAES, 2 Oct. 1900.—La revue des soldats de la Reine à Komati Poort en mon honneur et le télégramme de Lord Roberts au nom de l'armée de l'Afrique du Sud m'ont vivement touché. J'en remercie votre Majesté du fond de mon cœur en les considérant comme une nouvelle preuve de la vieille

¹ Lord James was greatly struck with the difference in the Queen since he had last seen her in May. He wrote: "I was in attendance at Balmoral in May and October 1900. In May the Queen was quite as of old—very cheerful, and enjoying any anecdote or smart conversation according to her nature. The war engaged her mind almost entirely. She felt that there had been many mistakes made in South Africa, but she deprecated any enquiries that should make our defects apparent to the world. . . . Thus I found, and thus I left the Queen in good health and spirits in May 1900. When I returned in October I found that the greatest change had taken place. The Queen had lost much flesh, and had shrunk so as to appear about one-half of the person she had been. Her spirits, too, had apparently left her. . . . The Queen herself told me that she felt very weak and weary, but hoped to recuperate at Cowes [? Osborne]. She ascribed her weakness to her visit to Ireland in the summer [? spring]. 'It was very hard and trying work,' she said. 'I had a great deal to get through, and I was so anxious that everything should pass off well. I am afraid it was too much for me.'"—Lord Askwith's *Lord James of Hereford*, pp. 261–262.

et traditionnelle alliance entre nos deux pays. Je vous baise la main. CARLOS.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 3rd Oct. (1900).—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty respectfully submits that he has seen Lord Lansdowne, and has spoken to him with respect to your Majesty's cypher. Lord Lansdowne is averse to the idea of a Military Secretary for War instead of as heretofore a Civil one. Lord Salisbury does not hold absolutely to that view, though the entire novelty of the selection might provoke much criticism. But he believes that a more formidable difficulty would be found in Lord Roberts's refusal to accept it. He has always, and only the other day with much emphasis, expressed his dislike to being in any way mixed up with English parties. But Lord Salisbury quite feels the difficulty of finding a good civilian Secretary for War, which now confronts your Majesty. He hopes, however, that the question of office may be deferred till after the County Elections.

Sir Arthur Bigge to Queen Victoria.

DUNBAR, 4th Oct. 1900.—Sir Arthur Bigge . . . has just returned from Edinburgh, which was in the full turmoil of a General Election, where he met by appointment Mr. Balfour, and with him talked over the points about which your Majesty is anxious.

Mr. Balfour's views are: that, until the results of the Elections are generally determined, all other public business is practically at a standstill; and therefore he can understand that Lord Salisbury is unable to now inform your Majesty what it is proposed to do regarding the Admiralty and War Office. Personally Mr. Balfour knows nothing as to Lord Salisbury's intentions, as they have held no communications since the latter went abroad. He has not heard of the probable change at the War Office. All he knew was that Mr. Goschen would retire, and that at the Treasury it was rumoured that Sir M. Hicks Beach would not continue to serve as Chancellor of

the Exchequer. He ventured to think that Lord Salisbury could not undertake that the Order in Council of 1895 should be altered, nor that the Secretary-of-State could deal with the question of the Guards going to Gibraltar, or that of an increase in the salary of the Commander-in-Chief until, granting that the Government is restored to power, the Cabinet has considered and to some extent agreed upon the general lines of their policy of Army Reform, which he takes for granted will be the primary and absorbing work of the new Parliament.

Apparently Mr. Balfour, naturally, was very reluctant to in any way criticise the Prime Minister, but he thought the latter should write explaining that for the present it will be impossible to take action upon the various matters to which your Majesty has referred, and to assure your Majesty that no appointments in the Government will be formally submitted until your Majesty's pleasure has been previously taken upon the proposals. . . .

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 4th October 1900.

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—If the Queen wishes it, I will gladly come to Balmoral after the Elections; but I am afraid it will excite some attention, as I have not been there often. I can see you at any time after the Elections.

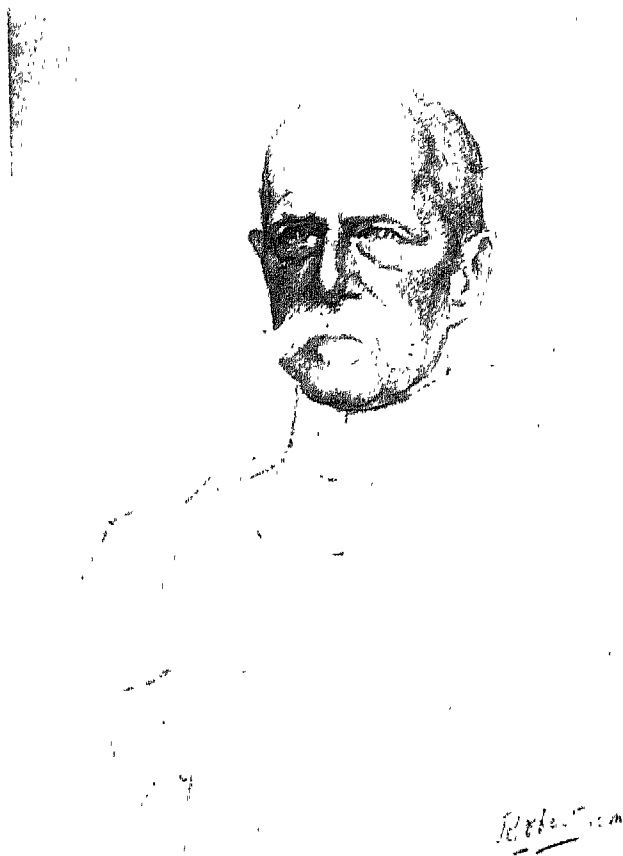
If it had not been for Goschen insisting on giving up immediately, it would have been easy to keep all these offices open till the Queen came back to Windsor, but this will hardly be practicable.

I spoke very earnestly to Lord Lansdowne about the Guards going to Gibraltar, and I hope he has stopped any action till the new C.-in-C. comes home. Yours very truly, SALISBURY.

Lord Roberts to Queen Victoria.

PRETORIA, 4th October 1900.

MADAM,—I had the great honour to receive by the last mail your Majesty's gracious letter of the 7th



*Field-Marshal Carl Roberts, V.C., K.G.
From a sketch by Lady Leo Gleichen*

September, for which I beg to tender my most respectful thanks.

On the very day the letter reached me I heard from Lord Lansdowne that your Majesty had been graciously pleased to select me for the high and important position of Commander-in-Chief. I need not say how proud and grateful I am for this mark of your Majesty's appreciation of my services. I earnestly trust I may be able to carry out the difficult duties connected with the office to your Majesty's satisfaction and to the benefit of the Army.

I have not been able yet to reply to that part of Lord Lansdowne's telegram in which he asked when I thought I could take up the appointment, but I trust it will not be very long before I can fix a date. Troubles continue in different places, and the ubiquitous General De Wet is still at large, but there are signs that the burghers are getting tired of the war, and beginning to realise what a frightful calamity it is for their country.

In many parts of the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal the distress amongst the women and children must be very great. I pointed this out to Commandant-General Botha just a month ago in a letter, a copy of which I enclose for your Majesty's perusal.

I am to-day sending copies of it to ex-President Steyn and General De Wet by the hand of an influential burgher, who surrendered at Barberton, and offered his services in view to explaining the hopelessness of the situation to the Boer leaders. If Mr. van der Post's mission is successful it will be very satisfactory; under any circumstances I trust that affairs will have been settled sufficiently to admit of my leaving South Africa early in November. The majority of the Transvaalers are anxious to give in, but they think they are in honour bound to carry on the war so long as any of the Orange Free Staters hold out.

The City Imperial Volunteers left this yesterday

en route for London, looking thoroughly efficient and workmanlike. It is really wonderful the way in which they have adapted themselves to the rough life of a soldier in the field. They have had to draw their own water, cut their own wood, and cook their own food, often under considerable difficulties, but no one has ever heard a word of complaint from them. The country owes the C.I.V. a deep debt of gratitude, if only for showing what admirable material for our Army we possess in the Volunteer Force.

It will I think gratify your Majesty to know that in a telegram I received from New Zealand congratulating me in my new appointment, the Premier, Mr. Seddon, says: "Our earnest desire is that ere long you may be not only Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, but also of all military forces of the Empire." A grand feeling of loyalty pervades the Colonials, and they certainly make most excellent soldiers.

With my most respectful duty, I am, Madam, your Majesty's most obedient humble servant, ROBERTS.

Sir Redvers Buller to Queen Victoria.

LYDENBERG, TRANSVAAL, 5th Oct. 1900.—Sir Redvers Buller presents his humble duty to the Queen Empress, and has to thank her Majesty for a most gracious letter of the 24th August.

Sir Redvers has for the last months been employed in pursuing the remnants of the Boer Army into the fastnesses of the Drakensberg. It has been interesting work, and as Sir Redvers hopes of some value, as it has proved to the Dutch that British troops can follow them into fastnesses which they had believed to be impenetrable. It is certainly a dreadful country to get about in, and we have brought guns and wagons down and up places that we would have believed to be impossible, but everything is possible to willing men, and the troops have worked splendidly. . . .

Yesterday was a joyful day for Sir Redvers, as he

received orders from Lord Roberts to go to Natal, close up the papers of the Natal Field Force, and return to England. While really anxious to remain out here while there is anything to do, he cannot say that he regrets going home. His only wish is that after all this long time peace is not more assured than it is. There will always be a remnant of irreconcilables who will refuse to accept English rule. But these will not be many; with them at present are some 4,000 to 5,000 rascals who are remaining in the field for what they can plunder, and whom a more connected and active policy would have driven ere this into submission. But no doubt the difficulties in this vast country have been enormous, and in saying this Sir Redvers does not wish to imply that such a policy would have been possible; he only regrets that it has not apparently been possible, and he shudders to think of how great the strain of this prolonged war, of the crisis in China, and of the death of H.R.H. the Duke of Coburg coming all together must have been upon the Queen Empress. He trusts that her Majesty is in good health. With his humble duty, Sir Redvers Buller has the honour to remain, her Majesty's devoted servant.

Queen Victoria to Sir Arthur Bigge.

BALMORAL CASTLE, 6th Oct. 1900.—The Queen has received both Sir Arthur Bigge's letter and telegram. This interview with Mr. Balfour seems to have been of little use, as he evidently knows nothing. . . . Lord Salisbury's two last letters say more than usual. The Order in Council must be reviewed, and that must be one of their first works. The Queen has written a confidential strong letter to Lord Roberts on his duties.

The Elections are wonderfully good.

Perhaps Sir Arthur could see [Lord] Salisbury before coming here at the end of next week. . . .

The Duke of Connaught *never* expected or wished to be made Commander-in-Chief *now*, and wishes Lord Roberts to do all that is so much required.

Memorandum by Sir Arthur Bigge.

LONDON, 13th Oct. 1900.—Sir Arthur Bigge with his humble duty respectfully begs to submit :

He has just left Lord Salisbury, whom he was glad to find looking very well and in good spirits.

The Prime Minister began by saying that he did not know whether he was to assume that it was your Majesty's pleasure that he should continue at the head of the Government! to which Sir Arthur Bigge ventured to reply that it would not be necessary to trouble your Majesty for any commands on that point. But Lord Salisbury then continued, perhaps in a more serious tone, to touch upon the question of his retaining the control of both the Premiership and the Foreign Office. He said that his doctors had advocated his having less work, and that "outside opinion" rather favours a separation of the two offices. But, as he feels that he has sufficient strength to go on with both, "he is ready to do whatever is most agreeable to the Queen and is in her judgment most beneficial to the public service." In the event of his giving up the Foreign Office, Lord Lansdowne is the only possible successor. Sir Arthur Bigge's impression was that Lord Salisbury would like to remain at the Foreign Office, though he added that if he relinquished it, there would be a place available for Lord Lansdowne.

The next question was the Admiralty, and here there was, Lord Salisbury said, a little difficulty. Mr. Gerald Balfour for one reason or another had not managed the Irish quite satisfactorily; and, among other results, he was afraid the loss of a Unionist seat (Mr. Plunket's) in Dublin must be more or less attributed to the Chief Secretary's action. Therefore a change was necessary, and obviously the post of Secretary for Scotland was that to which Mr. Balfour would be most suited. This would necessitate moving Lord Balfour of Burleigh, and Lord Salisbury suggests him as First Lord of the Admiralty. He is a strong man, a good administrator, and "does not make mistakes."

Lord Salisbury then proceeded—not without Sir Arthur detecting a sigh!—to the War Office. Lord Roberts had absolutely refused to be Secretary of State, otherwise Lord Salisbury would have been prepared to submit his name to your Majesty; but he was not surprised at this refusal on the part of an old and distinguished soldier to now adopt a political career. He therefore had decided to propose Mr. St. John Brodrick. . . . He considers Mr. Brodrick as very efficient and able, knowing the War Office intimately; has a great position in the House of Commons, and has, while working under Lord Salisbury's own eye at the Foreign Office, given ample proof of general ability and capacity.

But in now making these proposals Lord Salisbury humbly does so in order that your Majesty may well consider them; and he will not expect any decision until there has been time for your Majesty to do so. There is, he says, no hurry.

With regard to Sir Michael Hicks Beach, he has said nothing to Lord Salisbury, but did tell Mr. Balfour of his wish to give up the post of Chancellor to the Exchequer. . . .

Queen Emma to Queen Victoria.

HETLOO, 16th Oct. 1900.—Sure of your affectionate sympathy I am anxious to inform you [of] the engagement of my daughter to the Duke Henry of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. You will be glad to hear that my daughter is very happy. EMMA.

[Copy.] *Mr. Akers Douglas to Mr. Balfour.*

Confidential.

BALMORAL CASTLE, 18th October 1900.

MY DEAR ARTHUR,—The Queen sent for me yesterday afternoon, and told me she had heard from Bigge the chief features of Lord Salisbury's proposals for the reconstruction of the Government, and desired me to telegraph to Lord Salisbury to say that, while she was anxious not to trouble him to come here, she wished to discuss with him the proposed changes.

Further, she wished to know if the matter was urgent, or could wait until her return to Windsor on 8th November.

The Queen, as far as I can gather, is now quite prepared to approve, but is in some difficulty *re* Foreign Office, and seems to think she has been placed in a very awkward position. Bigge has told her that Lord Salisbury, while suggesting the change at the Foreign Office, would be prepared to stay on if the Queen wished him to do so. Thus the Queen thinks that the responsibility of asking Lord Salisbury to give up the Foreign Office will rest on her, and she shrinks from having to ask him to go. Her own feelings evidently are, that Lord Salisbury cannot without injury to his health undertake again the double office, and should therefore be relieved of the Foreign Office. She has no objection I think to Lansdowne at Foreign Office, though she had rather thought of Pauncefoot; and the proposed change is indeed more attractive to her by thought of Cranborne¹ as Under-Secretary. . . . Yours sincerely, A. AKERS DOUGLAS.

Mr. Balfour to Mr. Akers Douglas.

[Copy.] WHITTINGHAME, PRESTONKIRK, 18th October 1900.

MY DEAR DOUGLAS,—I do very earnestly hope that the Queen will not insist upon Lord Salisbury keeping *both* offices. It requires no doctor to convince his family that the work, whenever it gets really serious, is too much for him. I have twice had to take the Foreign Office, and three times, if I remember rightly, he has been obliged to go abroad at rather critical moments in our national affairs. He is over seventy, and not a specially strong man. If the Queen desires (as I am sure she does) to keep him as Prime Minister, I feel sure she would be well-advised not to insist on his being also Foreign Minister.

Lord James may be right in thinking that public opinion on the Continent would view with dismay Lord Salisbury's retirement from office. . . . I do not believe

¹ The present Marquis of Salisbury.

they would be the least alarmed at an arrangement which left Lord Salisbury Prime Minister and put the conduct of Foreign Office details into the hands of Lord Lansdowne. Yours very sincerely, ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR.¹

Sir Arthur Bigge to Queen Victoria.

18th Oct. 1900.—Sir Arthur Bigge humbly begs to submit to your Majesty a Report made by order of the Local Government Board upon the *sanitary condition of Windsor*. It reveals a disgraceful state of things regarding the housing of the poor, for which it is impossible to acquit the Town Council of indifference and lukewarmness.

In these days of high civilisation it seems shameful that people should be living in places and surroundings such as these existing within almost a stone's throw of your Majesty's home. The fact that some of the worst of these hovels are called "Victoria" Cottages is almost an insult to your Majesty.

Sir A. Bigge has referred to Mr. Chaplin, who thinks that, although the Town Council are now bestirring themselves, considerable benefit might arise were a letter written stating that your Majesty would be glad to know what steps were being taken to remedy the existing state of affairs.

The Report is very long, but Sir A. Bigge has marked the more important passages.

Endorsed :—

The Queen has read the marked passages with horror, and her name should certainly be used to ensure this disgraceful state of things being remedied.

[Copy.] *Sir Arthur Bigge to the Mayor of Windsor.*

BALMORAL CASTLE, 19th October 1900.

DEAR MR. MAYOR,—The Report of the Local Government Board Inspector of 20th February upon

¹ Mr. Akers Douglas, in replying from Balmoral next day, wrote : "Your letter came just at the right moment; was exactly what was wanted, and I think has quite settled the matter."

the sanitary condition of Windsor has been laid before the Queen.

Her Majesty would be greatly interested to know what steps are being taken to remedy the state of things which, from the Report, appear to exist in the Borough.

Will you kindly give me any information available on this matter ; for I feel certain that you can understand how pained and concerned the Queen has been to think of the wretched insanitary condition in which some of the inhabitants of Windsor have been permitted to live within but a stone's throw of the Castle. Believe me, yours very faithfully, ARTHUR BIGGE.

The Mayor of Windsor to Sir Arthur Bigge.

THE GUILDHALL, WINDSOR, 20th October 1900.

SIR ARTHUR,—I hasten to answer your letter received this evening.

It was my intention to have called upon you at Winchester Tower, and give some few particulars as to the various garbled statements appearing in the newspapers as to the condition of Windsor, but found you had returned to Balmoral.

Herewith, I beg to forward a few memos., hurriedly written, which it is hoped may be somewhat reassuring to her Majesty the Queen. The blame for any laxity rests apparently with those Members of the Council who form the Health and Drainage Committee, and two of the officials. Measures will, however, be now promptly taken to remedy the evils wherever they may exist.

I venture to suggest that these reports would not have been spread broadcast to such an extent, had Dr. Bulstrode's statements been received six months ago and not within a fortnight or so of the Windsor Municipal Election. I have the honour to remain, Sir Arthur, your obedient servant, A. T. BARBER, Mayor.

[Copy.] *King of the Belgians to Queen Victoria.*

PARIS, 19 Octobre 1900.

MA CHÈRE COUSINE,—Je profite du courrier Anglais pour vous adresser ci-joint un rapport sur l'affaire Sipido. Ce rapport je l'ai dicté afin d'en rendre la lecture plus facile.

C'est à dessein que je n'avais pas jusqu'ici écrit à Bertie ; l'affaire n'était pas finie. Il me répugnait d'écrire à Bertie une lettre pour l'assurer de ma bonne volonté ! C'était trop peu. Je voulais laisser la parole *aux faits*, et ne rien négliger pour les rendre, les circonstances étant données, aussi satisfaisants que possible. Si cependant vous me faites savoir que vous désirez que j'écrive à Bertie, je me conformerais naturellement à vos ordres.

Je me permets, chère Cousine, de vous prier, dans l'intérêt de la cause, de regarder mon rapport comme absolument confidentiel. Si Sipido apprenait mes efforts je ne doute pas qu'il ne se sauve de suite en Amérique, où il serait à peu près impossible de le cueillir.

Profondément affligé de la maladie de Vicky, daignez agréer tous les vœux que nous tous formons pour elle.

Je suis pour la vie, chère Cousine, votre tout dévoué cousin, LÉOPOLD.

Queen Victoria to the Prince of Wales.

BALMORAL CASTLE, 22nd October 1900.

DEAREST BERTIE,—I received this letter yesterday, and send it as it is. I wrote to Leopold that we were rather shocked at Sipido's escape¹ and that you were *bien blessé* that he had not written a word, and this is the answer. . . . Ever your devoted Mama, V. R. I.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Queen Victoria.

WAR OFFICE, 23rd Oct. 1900.—Lord Lansdowne presents his humble duty to the Queen, and he has

¹ See above, p. 523. Sipido was found *not guilty* by a Brussels jury.

the honour to ask for an expression of your Majesty's pleasure with regard to a proposal that a representative contingent of Imperial troops should be sent to Australia in order to take part in the ceremonial connected with the inauguration of the Australian Commonwealth on 1st January 1901.

Some time has been spent in preliminary discussions between the different departments concerned, and it was not until yesterday that the matter became ripe for submission to your Majesty. Lord Lansdowne deeply regrets that your Majesty should have been prematurely troubled with regard to it. On the other hand, there was so little time to spare that the military authorities are perhaps to be excused for having pressed on with their preparations subject to your Majesty's final sanction.

It is proposed that the strength of the Force should in round figures be about 1,000, that it should be thoroughly representative of all types of your Majesty's troops, and that it shall include a small number (about 100 altogether) of Yeomanry, Militia, and Volunteers. The Auxiliary Forces, which have acquitted themselves so well during the war, will be disappointed if they are left without representation in such a body of soldiers.

It is also hoped that your Majesty will allow a few men of the Household Cavalry and of the Foot Guards to form part of the Force. In the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief the absence of these would greatly detract from the interest which will attach to this very remarkable Force.

Lord Lansdowne encloses with this letter a detailed statement of its proposed composition, and hopes to be favoured with your Majesty's commands with a view to an authoritative announcement upon the subject.

Queen Victoria to Sir Arthur Bigge.

27th Oct. 1900.—Will Sir Arthur answer Lord Lansdowne and say the Queen consents but reluctantly, and trusts this sort of thing will not happen.

H.M. must be informed at once of any important arrangement for her troops.

[*Copy.*] *Memorandum by Queen Victoria.*

23rd Oct. 1900.—Saw Lord Salisbury ; had a great deal of discussion on all the various changes in the Cabinet. The first, a most important one, is that he himself feels he ought not to continue to hold the two offices, as it is too much for his health. Contrary to my expectation, he was quite ready to propose and do this. The work was not too much for him when there was no very important political crisis ; but, if that came, he could not undertake it. He intended to take the Privy Seal himself, as he must have an office. This would entail the retirement of Lord Cross, which we both regretted, but felt would be well, as he had aged a good deal, and didn't like his present office.

Lord Salisbury thought the only person fit to take the Foreign Seals was Lord Lansdowne ; but I said it must be on the strict understanding that he must be entirely under his personal supervision, which used always to be the case with the Prime Minister, and that no telegram or despatch should be sent without first being submitted to him.

Then came the two very important offices of the Admiralty and War Office. Lord Salisbury . . . suggested that his son-in-law, Lord Selborne, should be appointed [to the Admiralty], who is very capable, and has been lately Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies. I assented to this. As for the War Office, he felt, taking it altogether, that Mr. Brodrick would be the best person. He thought very well of him since he had had him as Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs ; he was a good speaker and worker, and not connected with any objectionable measures. . . . Lord Salisbury thought the Duke of Bedford would be a good Under-Secretary for War, as he would speak for the Army in the House of Lords, and is said to be very able.

It was intended that Sir Matthew White Ridley should retire. . . . Lord Salisbury said it was very painful to have to tell his colleagues to retire. Mr. Ritchie should succeed Sir Matthew Ridley: he is a very good man of business and energetic. Lord Salisbury also proposed that Lord Cranborne, his son, should be Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. This will be a very good thing, as it will show the same policy is to be pursued. . . .

Mr. Wyndham, who I should have preferred at the War Office, but who is too young, is to be Secretary for Ireland with a seat in the Cabinet. Speaking of [Vice-Royalty of] Ireland, which is vacant, Lord Salisbury thought Lord Dudley would do very well there.¹

[Copy.] *Sir Arthur Bigge to the Mayor of Windsor.*
Private.

BALMORAL CASTLE, 25th October 1900.

DEAR MR. MAYOR,—I have to thank you for so promptly replying to my letter respecting Dr. Bulstrode's report. The particulars noted in your memorandum have been duly conveyed to the Queen, and her Majesty is gratified to learn that measures will be at once taken to remedy the evils wherever they may exist.

I am very sorry that it was not possible for me to have met you and personally discussed the matter, especially as by the time H.M. returns to Windsor you will, I conclude, be no longer Mayor. It is with the question of housing of the poor that the Queen is

¹ The Queen asked Sir Arthur Bigge to telegraph to the Prince of Wales the principal changes. In the final arrangements Mr. Goschen and Sir Matthew Ridley (who were created Viscounts), Lord Cross, and Mr. Chaplin retired from the Cabinet, and Lord Salisbury took the Privy Seal instead of the Foreign Office. The new appointments in the Cabinet were: Home Secretary, Mr. Ritchie; Foreign Secretary, Lord Lansdowne; War Secretary, Mr. Brodrick; Admiralty, Lord Selborne; Board of Trade, Mr. Gerald Balfour; Local Government Board, Mr. Long; Board of Agriculture, Mr. Hanbury; Postmaster-General, Lord Londonderry. In other respects the Cabinet was still constructed as it appears on p. 6. As Lord Cadogan remained Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland in the Cabinet, Mr. Wyndham, the new Chief Secretary, was outside. The Duke of Bedford refused the Under-Secretaryship for War.

most concerned. If Dr. Bulstrode realised a distinctly "pathetic side" to the inspection of Victoria Cottages, there seems, in my humble opinion, something still more sad, that what evidently are the worst class of cottages in the Borough should bear H.M.'s name. Surely a rent of 6s. 6d. a week for a cottage (of course, I do not know how many rooms) in which "for two years the rain has fallen on to the bed; the floor falling in, etc., and no repairs carried out," *vide* page 12 of Report, is exorbitant and extortionate: River Street also seems to disclose horrors which one had hoped had been abolished. But it certainly must make the task of effecting reforms somewhat hopeless if the Corporation fail to obtain one conviction out of practically sixty summonses against the owner of Victoria Cottages. The Queen asked when these latter were built. Yours very faithfully, ARTHUR BIGGE.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 27th Oct. 1900.—Intended going out early in the afternoon, when a telegram came about dear Christle, which upset us all very much. Had had a very good one from Lenchen in the morning, but this latest one said he was worse, though the temperature was not high, and that he had congestion of both lungs. Was much distressed.

29th Oct.—Saw Dr. Bankart after breakfast, who received late last night the news from the doctor that dear Christle had been playing cricket on the 9th, took to his bed on the 10th for malarial fever, and a week ago enteric supervened. At first he seemed to go on quite well, when last week the lungs became attacked, but the temperature was not very high; still, the case was very serious. Went out with Evelyn M[oore], and on coming home Beatrice came and told me Thora begged not to come to luncheon, as a telegram had come saying dear Christle was much worse. This I own took away all hope from me. The Maharajah of Kapurthala lunched with us, having come on

purpose to see me before his return to India. Besides ourselves and the children, Edith L[ytton], Marie M[allet], Lord Clanwilliam, and Sir A. Bigge lunched. The Maharajah, was, as usual, very agreeable. Took leave of him directly afterwards, and his gentleman was presented.

Almost directly after I went upstairs Thora came in, and in a faltering voice said, "He is gone." I could not believe it, it seemed too dreadful and heart-breaking, this dear, excellent, gallant boy, beloved by all, such a good, as well as a brave and capable officer, gone! To think that he had gone through the Indian campaign, Ashanti (where our beloved Liko was taken), the Soudan (going down in his ship), and now again in South Africa, had passed through endless hardships and dangers without being ill, or getting a scratch, to fall a victim to this horrid fever, just on the eve of his return home; oh! it is really too piteous. It brings back so vividly to my mind dear Liko's loss, dying of African fever, away from his dear ones. I am miserable in thinking of poor dear Lenchen, who so worshipped this son, and poor Thora, so dear, so courageous, trying to comfort me by saying so sweetly she knew "he was happy." All of us busy sending telegrams. Again and again the terrible thought of this fresh blow and irreparable loss brought tears to my eyes. Poor dear Lenchen, poor Christian, who is abroad, and loved this son so dearly! A wet afternoon, and felt too upset to go out. Had a quiet little dinner *à trois*. Poor Thora wonderfully calm and resigned.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Queen Victoria.

LANSDOWNE HOUSE, 28th Oct. 1900.—Lord Lansdowne presents his humble duty to the Queen, and he desires to express the deep pain with which he has learned the loss sustained by your Majesty in the death of H.H. Prince Christian Victor.

Lord Lansdowne had hoped that the end of the war, which cannot now be far off, would bring to your Majesty relief from most of the cares and anxieties

which must have weighed so heavily upon you during the last few months. He realises the greatness of the sorrow which this sad event will bring to your Majesty and to the Royal House. He grieves for your Majesty's loss; he also laments the death of a young officer of whose character and qualities he had, both in India and at home, some opportunities of forming a judgment, and of whom it may truly be said that he well deserved the general respect and affection which was felt for him by all with whom he was brought into contact, whether they were his comrades or his seniors.

Lord Lansdowne has been made aware by the Prime Minister that your Majesty has been pleased to think of him for the Foreign Office. He is most grateful for this mark of your Majesty's confidence. He values it the more, because he does not disguise from himself that as Secretary of State for War he must often have seemed to your Majesty to fall short of your Majesty's expectations, but he knows that your Majesty has understood the difficulties with which he has had to contend, and has given him credit for a desire to do what was right. He will always look back with a sense of the utmost gratitude to the support which your Majesty has extended to him during the last five years.

He is fully aware that the task which lies before him is not an easy one, and he earnestly trusts that he may be able to perform it in a manner which may obtain your Majesty's gracious approval. He is glad to think that, under the new distribution of offices, he can look forward to the wise guidance of the Prime Minister, who will now have a larger command of leisure at his disposal, and who will no doubt continue to take a close personal interest in the affairs of the department which he has so long and so successfully directed.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 1st Nov. 1900.—This morning the beloved boy was to be laid to rest, with the soldiers he

loved so well, and there were to be services at St. George's Chapel and at the Chapel Royal. We went at twelve to the church here, where there was a simple touching service, much the same as we had for dear Affie at Osborne. I was much moved. A great number of people were present, all the neighbours, and my own people, who show the greatest feeling. The sun was shining brightly, which was very pleasant, and made it less gloomy, but my tears flowed again and again. It does seem so dreadful. Still terribly busy answering telegrams.

Greatly shocked to hear that Lord Roberts's eldest daughter, his great favourite and help, is ill with enteric at Johannesburg, and that he begged to put off his departure for a few weeks, as she could not be moved. A ladies dinner. When I got up to my room the anxiously expected telegram about the funeral of our dear Christle came, saying it had been most impressive, and that all the troops of the garrison took part.

Lord Roberts to Queen Victoria.

PRETORIA, 1st November 1900.

MADAM,—. . . I have had the great privilege to receive your Majesty's letter of the 5th October on the subject of the position of the Commander-in-Chief. I entirely share your Majesty's views, and I have more than once ventured to explain to Lord Lansdowne that it seemed to me an impossible position for any officer to fill with credit to himself or with benefit to the nation. I trust I shall be able to make this clear to whomever may be Lord Lansdowne's successor at the War Office, and it will be of the greatest possible help to me to know that I shall thus be acting in accordance with your Majesty's wishes on this very important matter.

With my most respectful duty, I am, Madam, your Majesty's most obedient humble servant, ROBERTS.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

BALMORAL, 5th Nov. 1900.—Felt very poorly and wretched, as I have done all the last days. My

appetite is completely gone, and I have great difficulty in eating anything.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 7th Nov.—Felt very tired and out of sorts, so I rested and kept quiet. At twelve dear Lenchen came to see me. It was a sad meeting. She was wonderfully calm and resigned, and talked a good deal about those who had been kind to her and had written to her.

Lord Kitchener to Queen Victoria.

JOHANNESBURG, 8th November 1900.

MADAME,—. . . I have just received your Majesty's most gracious letter of the 12th October. Some time ago Lord Roberts, I believe, recommended me to the Secretary of State for the Indian command, and there is nothing I should like better than to gain experience in that country which seems to me to be one of the most valuable portions of your Majesty's vast Empire.

When the Ameer of Afghanistan dies, it is not unlikely that there will be some trouble on the North-west frontier of India, and I should like very much, if possible, before anything of the sort happened, to have some experience with the native troops of India.

I feel that, with Lord Roberts and his staff at the War Office, the changes necessary for the good of the Army will be in absolutely safe hands. I do not think that in his new work my services would be of much use to him ; he has, however, suggested that I should, after returning from South Africa, work for a few months with him at the War Office before going to India ; during that time any questions in which I could help him would be thoroughly gone into, and, as far as possible, settled. I have great hopes he will receive the permanent assistance he requires in the War Office from the far more capable hands of your Majesty's son, the Duke of Connaught, who has such ample experience of the home army.

The Boers still keep up a hopeless struggle, hoping

for some form of European intervention through the mediation of Mr. Kruger. . . .

I have the honour to be, Madam, your Majesty's most obedient and very humble servant, KITCHENER.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 9th Nov. 1900.—Had felt better through the day and free from pain, but I still have a disgust for all food. The accounts of Lord Roberts's daughter are very bad, but she is said to be holding her own.¹

10th Nov.—Had an excellent night, but my appetite is still very bad. Out for a short while with Beatrice and, after one, having rested, I saw Lord Salisbury. The principal topic of conversation was, of course, the changes in the Government, which almost amount to a new Cabinet. Sir M. White Ridley is to be made a peer. Lord Cross, while feeling much having to resign, understands the necessity for it. Lord Cadogan is remaining on some short time in Ireland. Lord Salisbury regrets the war dragging on, and particularly that Lord Roberts cannot yet come home, as he thinks, besides the necessity of getting him back, Lord Kitchener may perhaps carry out the end of the war with more energy.

11th Nov.—Had a shocking night, and no draught could make me sleep, as pain kept me awake. Felt very tired and unwell when I got up, and was not able to go to church, to my great disappointment. Arthur arrived from Ireland and brought the girls from London. Could do nothing for the whole morning. Rested and slept a little. Young Arthur came over from Sandhurst for a few hours. After luncheon I rested, and later laid down and slept for an hour. Lenchen and Thora came to tea, also Arthur. Did some signing later and managed to write a letter, but I could not go to dinner, and had something to eat in the Audience-room with Beatrice. Arthur came and sat with us afterwards. Saw no one else, and hoped

¹ She recovered.

to have a good night, but I felt very restless and uncomfortable. Sir J. Reid returned yesterday. Saw him several times, as well as Dr. Bankart,¹ who leaves to-morrow. The latter has been most kind and attentive, and is very clever.

12th Nov.—Had again not a good night and slept on rather late. My lack of appetite worse than ever. It is very trying. The morning was very wet. Rested and slept a little while. Held a Council² in the White Drawing-room shortly after one. Still not feeling equal to dining with the ladies, and had something again with Beatrice, like last night.

13th Nov.—Had a better night, and was able to take a little breakfast. A very wet morning, so remained indoors, and dozed again for a while. After luncheon saw two nuns, the Mother Superior and a Sister Evangelist, of a Convent of Sisters of Mercy at Mafeking. They nursed the sick and wounded in a most exemplary and courageous manner, being very much exposed, and the Mother Superior being even fired at by the Boers. They were nice, simple-spoken women, who must have gone through a terrible time, and they are now shortly returning to Mafeking again. Both are Irish. It quite cleared up in the afternoon, and I drove with Beatrice and dear Lenchen, who came over after luncheon and remained till after tea.

Saw Mr. Goschen, who took leave of me. Talked of the different changes. He much regretted leaving, saying that it was a great wrench, but that it had been such a terrible strain upon him all through his time of office with the House of Commons besides, that for the sake of his health, he felt the time had come for him to retire, and he had proposed it himself. He said that he had talked it over with Mrs. Goschen before her death, and that she had advised him when the next election came not to be re-elected. Feeling decidedly better again.

¹ He had been attending to the Queen, while Sir James Reid was on leave.

² For the transfer of seals.

The Duke of York to Sir Arthur Bigge.

YORK HOUSE, S.W., 15th November 1900.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—Sorry to have missed you when I came to Windsor yesterday. I am very anxious to present medals if possible to the men who have served in the war in the different colonies of Australia when I get out there. I saw Crutchley this morning; he says he thinks it can be managed, and has written to you on the subject. He tells me there are to be twelve clasps, and, if the Queen will approve of them now, he can get them done. I also saw Brodrick at the War Office this afternoon; he is very keen that I should present these medals when I get out there, and has written to-night to the Queen to approve of the clasps, so will you try and get this done as soon as possible, and then they can send out the lists of the clasps to the various commanding officers to be filled in, as there is very little time to be lost. And I am sure this would be appreciated in the Colonies, if it can be done.

Thank God the Queen is better now, but she has been quite seedy. Believe me, very sincerely yours,
GEORGE.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 16th Nov. 1900.—After twelve went over to St. George's Hall with Beatrice and the children, where I inspected about one hundred of the Colonial troops, who had been invalided. There were Canadians, Australians, Tasmanians, New Zealanders, and men from the Cape and Ceylon, representing forty-five regiments. Some of the men were very fine-looking, all in khaki with felt hats. After I came into the hall they formed up and filed past, under the command of Major Syne. An old Australian Chaplain, who lost his leg by the bite of a mad horse, named the different regiments the men belonged to, as they came by. Before I left they formed up again, and I said the following words: "It is with much

pleasure that I welcome you here to-day, and I thank you warmly for your loyal and devoted services, and wish you Godspeed on your way home." They then gave three cheers, and a sergeant called for "One more Colonial," which apparently was a particular way of cheering in Australia. The men were entertained to luncheon by the Mayor and Corporation of Windsor.

17th Nov.—Saw Sir Redvers Buller, who returned a week ago. He said that when he last saw me, before he went out, he did not in the least expect the war to last so long, or that there would be such stubborn resistance on the part of the enemy. Nothing could exceed the fighting powers of our men, but they were wanting in precaution. The country was extremely difficult and trying. When urged that there should be no recriminations, as I feared there had been, Sir Redvers said there would be none from him. Bertie arrived soon after seven, and came to my room, where we talked for some time.

[Telegram.] *The German Emperor to Queen Victoria.*

GROSS STREHLITZ, 17th Nov. 1900.—Sincere thanks for kind enquiry. A mad old woman made for the carriage brandishing an axe and threw it at us. It luckily hit the back of the carriage. The attack came from the left side where Bernhard was seated; he was in much greater danger than I, and might have been hit in the shoulder. Thank God all went off so well. Best love. WILLY.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

HATFIELD HOUSE, 17th Nov. 1900.—. . . It appears that the throwing of an axe at the Emperor William was the act of a madwoman. But the multiplication of these *attentats* is a very formidable symptom in modern society. Lord Salisbury will consult Mr. Ritchie upon the question whether any legislative improvement is possible in this country.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 19th Nov. 1900.—Had a very fair night, but my appetite much about the same. The sitting through meals, unable to eat anything, is most trying.

21st Nov.—Darling Vicky's sixtieth birthday. To think of her, who was so wonderfully active and strong, now so ill and suffering is heartbreaking. All her children, excepting Sophie, were to be with her. We pray daily that she may suffer less. Had a disturbed night, which made me very late.

[Copy.] *Mr. Brodrick to Queen Victoria.*

WAR OFFICE, 21st Nov. 1900.—Mr. Brodrick presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and has the honour to submit that on the departure of Lord Roberts from South Africa, Lord Kitchener of Khartoum should receive the substantive rank of Lieutenant-General and the temporary rank of General.

At present there are over 230,000 of your Majesty's troops in South Africa, and the extent of the command, in the opinion of both Lord Wolseley and Lord Roberts, would justify this rank being given to the officer succeeding Lord Roberts.

In Lord Kitchener's case, having regard to his promotion to Major-General in 1896, no advance of army rank was given after the battles of Atbara and Omdurman in 1898, and although he has possessed special powers when acting for Lord Roberts as Chief of the Staff, his actual rank since January has left him below many officers junior to him who have been given the local rank of Lieut.-General in South Africa. Mr. Brodrick therefore trusts this promotion may meet with your Majesty's approval.

Private. Mr. Brodrick to Sir Arthur Bigge.

WAR OFFICE, 21st November 1900.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—I am much obliged by your note. I also have some remarks to make on Lord

Wolseley's memo., but I will defer troubling the Queen with them till her Majesty wishes the discussion opened. I shall of course put off any action till Lord Roberts has had an opportunity of working the Order in Council. It has *not* been worked by Lord Wolseley. Your reading of my views (1895) is pretty accurate, and has held good.

Her Majesty may wish to know that the Cabinet considered the question of disembodying a further body of the Militia last Saturday. I informed Lord Wolseley at once. He was consulted by Lord Lansdowne a month ago, and objects to disembodiment; but the Cabinet are willing to take the responsibility, seeing that—

1. The Militia are not going out of the country.
2. The state of affairs abroad does not cause anxiety.
3. The men are very sick of work, and will infallibly buy out in large numbers as soon as released, unless they are humoured a little.

Lord Wolseley will probably tell the Queen that he was ignored. This is not so. His view was fully stated to the Cabinet both by Lord Lansdowne and myself, and the decision was deliberate. Twenty-one battalions are now to be disembodied. Yours very truly, ST. JOHN BRODRICK.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Queen Victoria.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 23rd Nov. 1900.—Lord Salisbury with his humble duty to your Majesty respectfully submits that a Cabinet Council was held to-day. . . .

It appeared that, to avoid interference at the outbreak of the war, promises were made to the House of Commons that when it was over full enquiry should be made into the conduct of it either by a Commission or Committee. The Members of the Cabinet who were in the House of Commons were fully convinced that performance of this promise would now be insisted on and could not be resisted. There was much discussion as to the best mode of dealing with it. Intermediately

it was resolved to take steps to ascertain in what measure the Opposition intended to approach it.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 24th Nov. 1900.—Heard from Lord Roberts that the accident he had, falling with his horse, had not been serious, and that he hoped to hand over the command to Lord Kitchener next week. Had some lengthened conversation with Mr. Brodrick, whom I found very sensible and agreeable, taking quite a right view of things and of the position of the Commander-in-Chief.

28th Nov.—Had a very bad restless night, with a good deal of pain. Got up very late, and when I did felt so tired I could do nothing, and slept on the sofa.

Saw Lord Salisbury after tea, who talked a good deal about my health, the necessity for my going abroad and my getting a thorough change and rest. He thought things were going on smoothly, and was glad I was favourably impressed by Mr. Brodrick, whom he considered one of the strongest and ablest statesmen of the present day. Mr. Wyndham, he thought, would do very well in Ireland. Lord Salisbury thought, excepting China, and of course the war, which must still give much trouble, that there was nothing to cause alarm. It was very important that Lord Roberts should return now.

Felt so exhausted and uncomfortable that I did not go to dinner, but I went for a short while into the drawing-room later. Lady Lansdowne was very kind and full of sympathy about dear Christle. She also said her husband was very grateful at having been moved, as he had had such constant worries, and found his present work much more interesting.

Lord Curzon to Queen Victoria.

VICEROY'S CAMP, TRICHINOPOLY, 28th Nov. 1900.
— . . . There is one subject which causes the Viceroy some anxiety. In deference to your Majesty's

strongly and repeatedly expressed opinions, and in accord with his own convictions, he worked out a scheme for giving military employment and rank to young Indian princes and nobles. It seems to be admitted at home that if any scheme is to be tried, this is more free from objection than any. But the Viceroy hears with alarm from the Secretary of State, who is personally favourable, that the hostile influences both at the India Office and the War Office are strong; and that he is not very sanguine of success. If this renewed attempt to solve the problem breaks down, the Viceroy fears that no one will venture to touch it again for many a long day to come.

The Viceroy concludes with the hope that in the midst of your manifold anxieties and sorrows your Majesty remains in good health and retains your wonderful vitality and strength.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 29th Nov. 1900.—Had a good night and felt rather better. A wet morning, so I did not go out. In the afternoon, directly after luncheon, saw the contingent of the 1st Life Guards who landed this morning with the rest of the composite regiment. I inspected them just in front of the archway I always go out by, on their way from the station to the barracks. May had come to meet her brother Dolly, and Frank and Meg were with her. May was in the carriage with Beatrice and me, and Alice with the other children and ladies and gentlemen were standing near by. Luckily it had ceased raining, but it was cold and dark. The men looked rather thin, but otherwise well and fit. When, after marching past, they were drawn up close to the carriage, I addressed the following words to them: “It is with feelings of great pleasure and deep thankfulness that I welcome you home after your gallant and arduous services in the war in South Africa, just a year after I bid you farewell. The hopes I then

expressed have been amply fulfilled. Alas ! the joy at your safe return is clouded over by the memory of sad losses of many a valuable life, which I in common with you all have to deplore."

30th Nov.—A very fine bright morning, which was very satisfactory for the visit of the Canadian troops. I had a very fair night, but my appetite still bad. At twelve went in the carriage with Beatrice and Alice, and inspected the Canadian troops, to the number of 240, in the Quadrangle. They were drawn up just as on previous occasions, receiving me with a royal salute, and the Colonel, Colonel Otter, was presented to me, after which they marched past and drew up close to the carriage, when I addressed the following words to them : " I am very glad to see you here to-day and to express my warm thanks for the admirable services rendered in the war by the Canadian troops. I wish you all a safe and happy return to your homes." All the officers were presented, and one poor man, who had lost a leg and was on crutches, was brought up to me. I saw the men march off to the Riding School, where they had their dinner. The three Canadian officers [who dined with the Queen] were very nice, and Colonel Otter knew Arthur quite well. He had been wounded in South Africa, but had quite recovered. Captain McDonald had been a prisoner with de Wet for seven weeks. They all said their men and Canada would never forget their day at Windsor.

Viscount Wolseley to Queen Victoria.

30th November 1900.

MADAM,—I cease to be your Majesty's Commander-in-Chief this evening, and as it would seem that my chance of re-employment in any other capacity is small, I am unwillingly compelled to regard my retirement from office now as final.

I therefore presume to humbly and respectfully express my heartfelt gratitude for the support and consideration, as well as the many acts of gracious

kindness and the many rewards I have received from your Majesty during the nearly forty-nine years I have had the privilege of serving the Crown.

The pride in being a British soldier is enhanced a hundredfold by the inward satisfaction experienced by all ranks in serving your Majesty. This has been felt by no one more keenly than by your Majesty's most humble and faithful servant, WOLSELEY, F.-M.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 2nd Dec. 1900.—After a very wretched night, I passed a very miserable day, and could neither go out nor leave my room. Missed being able to go to church and hearing a very fine sermon from Dean Farrar, which annoyed me very much. Slept a good deal and, as my repulsion for food was very great, went to neither luncheon nor dinner. Beatrice read and played a little to me.

3rd Dec.—Had a better night. Went out with Alice. Was very sleepy, and slept a little before luncheon. Drove with Beatrice and Helen. Before tea I received the Maharanee of Baroda, whom I had seen several times before. She is still very pretty, and speaks now quite fluent English. She is quite well again, though not feeling very strong after a severe operation she went through in the summer. After tea I received Lord Ampthill, who is going as Governor to Madras, and knighted him, handing him the Star of India, after he had kissed hands, but he can only wear it after getting to his destination. I then saw Lady Ampthill. They are both very tall and she very pretty. I was able to dine, but could scarcely eat anything.

[Copy.] *Queen Victoria to Viscount Wolseley.*

4th Dec. 1900.—The Queen wishes to thank Lord Wolseley for his kind letter and to express her sincere gratitude for his long and brilliant services so faithfully rendered to his Sovereign, the Army,

and Empire. She heartily joins with him in regretting the termination of his great military career.

[*Copy.*] *Sir Arthur Bigge to Mr. Brodrick.*

WINDSOR CASTLE, 6th December 1900.

MY DEAR BRODRICK,—The Queen desires me to ask you whether anything can be done to increase Lord Wolseley's pension, which her Majesty has reason to believe is on a lower scale than that granted to even civil officials, such as the Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the War Office—which, if her Majesty is correctly informed, seems somewhat anomalous.

While on this subject, the Queen hopes that you may have seen a letter, written by me to Lord Lansdowne at the end of last October, expressing her Majesty's earnest hope that the pay of the Commander-in-Chief might be sufficiently raised to enable him to rent a house in London within convenient distance of the War Office and suitable for such a reasonable amount of entertaining as ought to be expected from the Military head of the Army.

The Queen trusts that it may be possible to arrange for this in the coming Army Estimates. Yours very truly, A. J. BIGGE.

Mr. Brodrick to Sir Arthur Bigge.

Private.

WAR OFFICE, 6th December 1900.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—I have been in communication with the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to the pension of the Commander-in-Chief, who has not rendered my task more easy by his recent attack on the Exchequer.

I think, however, that I have persuaded Sir M. Beach to raise the pension from the allowance of a Field-Marshal, viz. £1,300 a year, to £2,000 a year, which is in excess of any civil servant, and equal to that of a Cabinet Minister. The £2,000 would be in lieu of any emoluments enjoyed by Lord Wolseley, or his successor, from public funds.

As regards the Commander-in-Chief, the Cabinet of 1895 felt an objection, which I do not share, to his receiving as much as the Secretary of State. The present pay is £4,500. I have asked Sir M. Beach to consent to an addition of £500 a year as House Allowance. This will, I think, be conceded.

I trust her Majesty will be satisfied with these arrangements.¹ It should be remembered that Lord Wolseley has received £30,000 from the country for his campaigns, and that Lord Roberts will probably receive a larger grant very shortly. Yours very truly, ST. JOHN BRODRICK.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 11th Dec. 1900.—Had a tolerably good night. Beatrice returned after ten, having had a good crossing. She described dear Vicky as not being much altered in face, and being even cheerful at times, but terribly ailing and suffering. Her only occupation is reading and being read to, as she cannot use her hands. Saw Sir Francis Laking for some time after tea. He encouraged me by saying he thought I should in time get over this unpleasant dislike for food and squeamishness, as well as the great discomfort I suffer from, and recommended my taking a little milk and whisky several times a day. Georgie and May arrived, bringing Alge Teck with them, but I did not see them before dinner, as I was feeling so tired. Alge is looking well, but thin, and only arrived a day or two ago from South Africa.

12th Dec.—Had a good night. At half-past twelve drove with Beatrice and May to the Town Hall, where a sale of Irish industries was arranged, which I looked at before it was opened, being rolled round to each stall, and the different ladies at each being presented to me. Some of them I knew quite well, the principal

¹ The Queen was not satisfied ; and on 10th December Sir Arthur Bigge, by her Majesty's desire, wrote a further letter pressing for an additional increase, considering how highly the chiefs in other professions were paid. But Mr. Brodrick was unable to obtain what the Queen desired.

ones being Lady Arran, Lady Lucan, the Duchess of Abercorn, Lady Castlerosse, Lady Mayo, Mrs. Lecky, and Mrs. Adair. There were some very pretty things, and I made various purchases.

14th Dec.—This sad day, so full of terrible memories, returned again. Beatrice, May, and Alice breakfasted with me. Drove down for the service at the Mausoleum at a quarter to twelve, all the family attending it, and Thora and Abby joined us there. The special prayer was very beautiful and the music lovely. The Bishop of Winchester kindly performed the service, assisted by Mr. Ellison.¹ May and Georgie took leave of me at the Mausoleum. In the afternoon, which was dull and dark, drove with Alix. Feeling very unwell again, and it was a great effort to go to dinner.

Mr. Brodrick to Sir Arthur Bigge.

WAR OFFICE, 15th December 1900.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—The unrest among the Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers in South Africa, due to their detention under very arduous conditions for a prolonged period, is showing itself by private letters, and has evidently impressed Lord Kitchener very much. He urgently telegraphs for drafts with which to relieve a portion of them.

I do not think any more Militia could be got to volunteer, we have no Yeomanry drafts, but I am sending 800 Mounted Infantry, and making various suggestions to alleviate the situation. I have also got the Treasury to raise the police to 10,000, and they will soon begin to go. But we cannot spare a man at present.

Would the Queen consider the propriety of authorising such a Proclamation as I enclose? It is only a draft, but I am assured such an appeal would give boundless satisfaction, and allay much disquiet. If it is likely to be approved,² I will submit it formally.

¹ Rev. J. H. E. Ellison, Vicar of Windsor.

² It was approved and issued—see next page.

I hear on all hands that our troops are too scattered, and I understand Lord Kitchener intends to redistribute them. But he telegraphs little, which is perhaps as well.

I find he had been paid all along as a Major-General, with great loss to himself, while all the local Lieut.-Generals (his subordinates before) had Lieut.-Generals' pay. I have rectified this for the past, and put his new pay on a proper footing, which has much gratified him. We must not "muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn." Yours very truly, ST. JOHN BRODRICK.

Extract from the Queen's Journal.

WINDSOR CASTLE, 16th Dec. 1900.—Had a very bad night and only got up late, having my breakfast alone. Followed the others to the Chapel as quickly as possible. Canon Robertson preached. Afterwards went out for a little with Beatrice and the children. Was very tired and drowsy after luncheon, so rested and slept most of the afternoon. Lenchen came to tea, after which I saw Lord Salisbury, but I did not feel up to a very lengthened conversation. Was unable to go to dinner. Beatrice sat with [me] afterwards, and read a little to me.

[Draft.] *Queen Victoria to the Adjutant-General.*

18th Dec. 1900.—Her Majesty the Queen commands the Adjutant-General to convey to the Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers, who have served during the past year in South Africa, the Mediterranean, and elsewhere, her grateful appreciation of their signal services.

Her Majesty has been glad to observe the testimony borne by general officers to the admirable spirit by which all ranks have been animated, the zeal and discipline which they have displayed, and the state of efficiency which they have attained.

The Queen deeply regrets the sickness and loss of life which have occurred, and highly values the sacrifices made by soldiers of all ranks in these

branches of the service in the cause of their country, despite personal inconvenience and pecuniary loss.

Her Majesty relies on those still employed abroad to continue to give their best services in aid of her regular army, and trusts that the day may not be far distant when she may welcome them home again.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 18th Dec. 1900.—Had a very bad night, and scarcely slept at all. Breakfasted late and left [Windsor] for Osborne at 11.40 with Beatrice and Ena, Thora meeting us at the station. Drino had arrived early from Wellington College. Slept for an hour in the train, and then I had a little broth, but I could not take much. Embarked on the *Alberta* at two. It was rather rough just outside Portsmouth, but became quite calm afterwards. Arrived up at the house about 3.30. Felt too tired to do anything, and dozed for a short while. Had some dinner with Beatrice and Thora, in the room in which we generally breakfast. There was very unsatisfactory news from South Africa, the Boers being terribly active all over the country.

19th Dec.—Had another very bad night. An attempt was made to induce me to sleep by Beatrice reading aloud, but it quite failed in its object, as it only made me wakeful. Had a very late breakfast, and did not go out, as it was pouring with rain. Rested and slept a little. In the afternoon drove with Thora, but could not go to any meals, and did not do anything all day. Beatrice and Thora sat with me a little in the evening, and I went to bed at ten, feeling quite tired out.

Lord Kitchener to Queen Victoria.

RESIDENCY, PRETORIA, 20th Dec. 1900.—I beg to inform your Majesty that I have visited the wounded in hospital, and given them your Majesty's gracious message; they are all doing well, though I fear Lieutenant Stanton, shot in the spine, will not recover.
LORD KITCHENER.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 22nd Dec. 1900.—I slept a little at first, and then was rather disturbed, after which I slept on again till quarter to twelve, at which I was very annoyed. I got up and had some breakfast, which I really liked, then drove out with Thora. I am rather better, but still see very badly. All my good people, my maids and Indian servants are indefatigable, and so anxious to do anything they can for me. Lenchen and Arthur and Louischen, who have come to spend Christmas here with their children, arrived, and I saw them each separately for a moment.

25th Dec.—Did not have a good night, was very restless, and every remedy that was tried failed in making me sleep. Then when I wished to get up I fell asleep again, which was too provoking. Went out with Lenchen and Beatrice about one, and the former told me Sir J. Reid wished me to know that dear Jane Churchill¹ had had one of her bad heart attacks in the night, and that he had telegraphed for her son, as he thought very seriously of her condition. I said, "You remember I warned and asked her son whether it was safe for her to come, as she was so ill at this very time last year." I felt anxious, and on coming home sent for Sir James, who said, "She is very ill," so I asked if it would not be better to send at once for another lady, to which he replied, "Most decidedly." Later, after I had had some broth and rested a little, I took a short drive with Louischen and Thora, and we talked a great deal about dear Jane, as I was so distressed at her being so ill. Directly I returned, I again sent for Sir James, who said, "I was just coming to tell your Majesty all was over." She died this morning early, in her sleep, and had just slept peacefully away. They had not dared to tell me for fear of giving me a shock, so had prepared me gradually for the terrible news. I saw Harriet Phipps, who told me

¹ She was daughter of the Marquis of Conyngham, and married in 1849 the 2nd Lord Churchill, who died in 1886.

all about it. I naturally was much upset and very unhappy, as dear Jane was one of my most faithful and intimate friends. At six, had a little service in the drawing-room, performed by Mr. Ellison, who gave a very nice short address and three hymns were sung, Beatrice playing the harmonium. Then I went upstairs and rested. This has indeed been a terribly sad Christmas for us all.

26th Dec.—Saw poor Victor Churchill,¹ who was terribly distressed, as was I too. The loss to me is not to be told. Dear Jane had been with me nearly fifty years. He said the doctor had been asked whether she might come here, as I feared it might be too much for her, but that he assured them she was better than she had been for some time. Victor said she had been so happy the last evening, saying she had never spent a pleasanter one, except that I was not there, and thought that, but for the trouble it had given me, which would have distressed her, she could not have had a more peaceful and blessed death. He thanked me again and again. I could scarcely speak.

Lord Kitchener to Queen Victoria.

RESIDENCY, PRETORIA, 26th Dec. 1900.—Your Majesty's most gracious message has been communicated to the troops. In their name I humbly beg to express our sincere hope that the New Year may prove one of great happiness to your Majesty and the Royal Family. LORD KITCHENER.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 27th Dec. 1900.—Had only a pretty good night, as I was much disturbed by the wind. I took several draughts, and then some milk, and fell asleep towards morning, so did not get up till nearly one. Felt very low and sad. There had been a service in

¹ 3rd Lord Churchill, Jane Lady Churchill's only son, who was advanced to a Viscountcy in 1902; subsequently Chairman of the Great Western Railway.

the Chapel at eleven, at which all the family, excepting the children, were present. Dear Jane's remains had rested there since yesterday evening. It had all been beautifully arranged with flowers by Lenchen and Beatrice.

Took a drive with Lenchen and Daisy at 2.30, having first signed several things. It was not a pleasant day, as the wind was so high, and I did not remain out long. Rested and had some broth on coming home. Felt very sad, and saw poor Victor Churchill again. I was able to be a little calmer and talk about the happy old days. Later I dictated to Beatrice a letter for dear Vicky, and then my Journal again to Thora, which she has been writing for me since we came here. They are all overworked.

28th Dec.—I had a bad night, though I got a little sleep at the beginning. Besides, I don't think I could have slept, as there was such a fearful storm. Then I thought of what would be going on, beloved Jane being taken away, and all following to the ship. The weather was so tempestuous, that I got quite alarmed about it. I went to sleep again, after I had wished to get up, which was very tiresome. It rained and blew so hard that it was impossible to think of going out, so I did some signing, though I could hardly see a word I wrote.

I felt very low and sad, which distressed my children very much.

29th Dec.—A fair night, and I got up rather earlier, but could take little breakfast. Went out after one, with Lenchen and Beatrice. Managed to eat a little cold beef, which is the first I have had for weeks, and I really enjoyed [it].

31st Dec.—A terribly stormy night. The same unfortunate alternations of sleep and restlessness, so that I again did not get up when I wished to, which spoilt my morning and day. Got out a little after one with Beatrice. When I came in I had to sign for a new Trustee to my private money, who is Louis Battenberg. Lord E. Clinton and Sir F. Edwards

were witnesses. The afternoon was wet, and I took a short drive in a closed carriage with Harriet P[hipps]. Rested when I came in. At a little after nine, after having my supper off Bengel's Food, Harriet P. read to me, and I fell quite asleep, so that Thora did not write the Journal, as it had got too late. Beatrice and Arthur only came up just to say good night. The news from South Africa was not very good. A post of our troops had been rushed by the enemy, and a gun was taken. We have, however, reoccupied the post.

CHAPTER XVII

1901

JANUARY

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 1st Jan. 1901.—Another year begun, and I am feeling so weak and unwell that I enter upon it sadly. The same sort of night as I have been having lately, but I did get rather more sleep and was up earlier. Lenchen and Beatrice came and wished me a happy New Year, as did also Thora; the others I saw later. Heaps of telegrams, letters, and cards, which Lenchen and Beatrice kindly answered for me. In the afternoon I drove with Arthur and Thora, and we went down to the Soldiers' Home, where there are some convalescents from South Africa. I said a few words to them, thanking them for their services, and wishing them a happy New Year. Then we drove to Whippingham and called on Mr. Clement Smith, who came out to the carriage and spoke to us. Rested when I came home. Have been able to take a little more food the last three days. After my supper, Ismay S[outhampton] came and read to me, and then I dictated a little to Thora.

2nd Jan.—Rather a better night, but slept on late into the morning, which is so provoking. Heard that Lord Roberts's ship had arrived safely, and was anchored in the Roads. I managed to get out for half an hour with Lenchen, and went to look at the arch which has been put in honour of Lord Roberts

at the Prince of Wales Gate. Drove in the afternoon, getting home just in time before Lord Roberts arrived. Arthur, and Beatrice, in her capacity as Governor of the Isle of Wight, met him at Trinity Pier, where he received an Address from the townspeople.

On Lord Roberts's arrival here, Arthur took him to the Council-room, where the family were assembled, and then took him to see Lenchen in her own room, after which he brought him to the drawing-room, where I was. I received him most warmly, shaking hands with him, and he knelt down and kissed my hand. Arthur then left him with me. Lord Roberts spoke with such grief of dear Christle's death, and said he could not say how deeply he mourned him, and how he felt for all of us. It had been such a shock, as he had not had the slightest idea there was any danger during Christle's whole illness; up to the very last he had looked so well and been so cheerful. Lord Roberts spoke of several officers who had not done well, and of others who had done excellently; also of all the difficulties our army had had to contend with. We deeply deplored the loss of so many valuable lives. He still wears his arm in a sling, the result of a fall from his horse.

After about half an hour Arthur came back with Louischen, Daisy, young Arthur, and Thora. I then gave Lord Roberts the Garter, which quite overcame him, and he said it was too much. I also told him I was going to confer an earldom on him, with the remainder to his daughter. He presented two members of his staff, Lord Stanley¹ and Colonel Cowan, then his six Indian orderlies, such fine-looking men, and the officer in charge of them, Captain Maxwell, who is Lord Roberts's nephew. I took leave of Lord Roberts, as also of Arthur, Louischen and their children, who were returning, first taking Lord Roberts to Southampton. I felt a little tired, so rested and slept for awhile. Later Ismay S. came and read to me.

¹ The present Earl of Derby.

4th Jan.—From not having been well, I see so badly, which is very tiresome. Heard by telegram that Lord Roberts's reception in London yesterday had gone off extremely well, though the weather had been dull. Had a telegram from Lord Kitchener, which was satisfactory.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Arthur Bigge.

DOWNING STREET, S.W., *4th January 1901.*

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—I will of course lay your letter before the Cabinet when it meets on the 12th.

The question I fear is one of great difficulty, because it involves questions of policy on the one side, and of personal honour on the other. The pledges that a full enquiry would be accorded were so distinct, and were so often repeated, that it may be impossible to treat them with entire disregard. Some understanding with the other side may possibly be devised, which may enable a properly selected Commission to keep clear of any really scandalous investigation. But I will at once consult the leader of the House of Commons. Yours very truly, SALISBURY.

Endorsement by Sir Arthur Bigge:—

In reply to a letter expressing a hope that the Government would not agree to the appointment of a Committee to enquire into the conduct of the South African War.

Lord Roberts to Queen Victoria.

MACKELLAR'S HOTEL, DOVER STREET, *5th January 1901.*

MADAM,—I was quite unable when at Osborne on Wednesday last to express how deeply I felt your Majesty's gracious kindness to me. The high honours conferred upon me were so unexpected, and took me so completely by surprise, that I felt quite overwhelmed, and had no words with which to express my gratitude for such a magnificent recognition of my services.

I only trust that, in the high and responsible position¹ in which your Majesty has been pleased to

¹ Of Commander-in-Chief.

place me, I may be able to do my duty in such a manner as will show my deep sense of the obligation I am under to you, Madam, and be of some benefit to your Majesty's Army.

With my most respectful duty, I am, Madam, your Majesty's most obedient humble servant,
ROBERTS.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 6th Jan. 1901.—At five had a short service in the drawing-room like the other day. The ladies and some of the gentlemen and servants were present. We had three hymns, one very pretty one, the Vesper hymn. Only the choir boys sang, and Beatrice accompanied on the harmonium. Mr. Clement Smith officiated. Had my supper of Benger's Food, which is very soothing and nourishing, after which Ismay S. came and read to me, and then Lenchen and Beatrice sat with me for awhile. Saw Sir Francis Laking, who is here to relieve Sir James Reid a little.

9th Jan.—Have appointed Verena Churchill to take her dear mother-in-law's place as Lady-in-Waiting, which keeps up the connection with our dear Jane, and I know she would have been so pleased. Verena is very amiable and nice.

Mr. Brodrick to Sir Arthur Bigge.

WAR OFFICE, 9th January 1901.

MY DEAR BIGGE,—In reply to your letter of to-day as regards the "African Order," the Cabinet carefully considered it, and I mentioned the Queen's remark to me that we had many orders already. The general view coincided with her Majesty's, and it was also held that heavy pressure would be brought to bear by officers who might expect the Bath for their services to secure that distinction rather than the new order.

In brief, it was believed some 6,000 names would be mentioned. There are in fact more, but I only received Sir R. Buller's list two days ago.

It was held that of these, say one-third would not be actually "mentioned in despatches"; one-third would have that mention recorded, and one-third would be rewarded.

Lord Salisbury expressed himself as quite ready to ask the Queen for a special extension of the Bath and St. Michael and St. George for this purpose, the vacancies as they occurred not being filled up.

The *sort of figures* which would be proposed are :

Bath, some 1,280 strong, add . . .	500
. St. M. and St. G., 660 strong, add . . .	300
D.S.O. (unlimited) 400 strong, add . . .	300
Promotions, say	1,000
	<hr/> 2,100

These figures look very large, and I have not submitted them, but we have had over 250,000 troops there, the war has gone on over fifteen months, and the fighting has been incessant. I write this quite informally, but her Majesty may like to learn the figures before any regular submission is made. . . . Yours very truly, ST. JOHN BRODRICK.

Extracts from the Queen's Journal.

OSBORNE, 10th Jan. 1901.—Rather a better night, but I slept on late. Only got out for a short time in the morning, and in the afternoon drove with Lenchen and Beatrice to Newport and back. Rested when I came in and had some food, then saw Mr. Chamberlain for a little while. After my supper saw Emily Amptill, who has succeeded Ismay Southampton, for a few moments, and then Lenchen and Beatrice came up to wish me good-night. A good telegram from Lord Kitchener.

12th Jan.—Had a good night and could take some breakfast better. Took an hour's drive at half-past two with Lenchen. It was very foggy, but the air was pleasant. Had some food when I came in and rested. Afterwards little Leopold played charmingly on the violin, Beatrice accompanying him, and then

she and Minnie Cochrane played some very nice duets. Took a *lait de poule*, then signed and dictated to Lenchen. Harriet read to me after my supper, and Lenchen and Beatrice came up afterwards.

13th Jan.—Had a fair night, but was a little wakeful. Got up earlier and had some milk. Lenchen came and read some papers. Out before one, in the garden chair, Lenchen and Beatrice going with me. Rested a little, had some food, and took a short drive with Lenchen and Beatrice. Rested when I came in, and at five-thirty went down to the drawing-room, where a short service was held by Mr. Clement Smith, who performed it so well, and it was a great comfort to me. Rested again afterwards, then did some signing, and dictated to Lenchen.

Here, on Sunday, the 13th January, the Queen's Journal, kept for nearly seventy years, ends. On the Monday her Majesty saw Lord Roberts again for a short while; but within a few days the illness assumed a critical character; and on Saturday, the 19th, a bulletin was published, giving her people the first intimation of the impending calamity. It said: "The Queen has not lately been in her usual health, and is unable for the present to take her customary drives. The Queen during the past year has had a great strain upon her powers, which has rather told upon her Majesty's nervous system. It has, therefore, been thought advisable by her Majesty's physicians that the Queen should be kept perfectly quiet in the house, and should abstain for the present from transacting business." The last phase was mercifully short; and at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 22nd January 1901, Queen Victoria, in the words of the final bulletin, "breathed her last, surrounded by her children and grandchildren."

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